

**Expert Report of
Bill M. Brister, Ph.D.**

**Olivia Y., et al. v. Barbour, et al.
Civil Action No. 3:04cv251LN**

February 7, 2006



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I. Executive Summary

I have been retained by counsel for plaintiffs in this action to review funding, spending, fiscal management, and related budgetary issues in regard to Mississippi's child welfare agency, the Division of Families and Children (DFCS) of the Mississippi Department of Human Services (MDHS), and to assess whether such budgetary and fiscal management procedures comport with reasonable minimum professional standards.¹ For reasons set forth below, I conclude that MDHS's fiscal practices failed to meet minimum professional standards, causing Mississippi's child welfare system, and the children in its care, to unnecessarily suffer from the harmful effects of severe underfunding.

Despite dangerously high DFCS social worker caseloads, and extreme funding deficiencies known to MDHS for numerous years:

- MDHS never requested that the division be funded at a level to bring caseloads within well-recognized standards, nor communicated the urgency of correcting this funding shortage, which placed the foster care children of Mississippi "Beyond Danger!"² To the contrary, total actual DFCS spending has dropped to its lowest level since 2000;
- Mississippi has left millions of dollars of allocated Federal funds unspent;
- In addition, MDHS has failed to maximize open-ended Federal funding sources. For instance, Mississippi receives the lowest amount of Title IV-E funds per child of any of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. As set forth below, if Mississippi could raise its Title IV-E eligibility rate to the national average, it would significantly increase the amount of Title IV-E funds available:

<u>IV-E Eligibility Rate</u>	<u>Total IV-E Federal Funds³</u>	<u>State Match⁴</u>
20.4% (Current MS Rate)	\$7,946,420	\$2,362,895
40.6% (Double Current Rate)	\$15,812,320	\$4,701,847
62.6% (National Average)	\$24,380,572	\$7,249,646
80% (High Rate)	\$31,157,280	\$9,264,723

A. The Division's Budget Does Not Reflect Current Need and Is Based on Grossly Inflated Forecasts of Available Federal Funds

Through the budget planning process, MDHS has been warned that abolished and unfilled personnel positions are causing dangerously high caseloads for social workers. DFCS documented the need to hire 500 to 700 *additional* social workers in order to reduce caseloads to well-recognized standards.⁵ Yet, MDHS did not include this information in its budget requests to the Legislature and, thereby, failed to communicate the scope, urgency, and critical nature of the situation.

Instead, MDHS provided extremely unreasonable and inaccurate forecasts of future funding levels (in particular, Federal funding). For State fiscal years (SFY)⁶ 2002 through 2005, for example, forecasting errors as to anticipated levels of Federal funding totaled approximately \$132 million (averaging an error of \$33 million per year in connection with an actual budget of less than \$70 million) These inaccurate forecasts posed the risk that budgetary decision-makers in the Legislature would conclude that DFCS budgetary shortfalls would be alleviated by substantial increases in future Federal funding, thereby reducing the need for them to act through budgetary increases or stricter oversight.

In fact, the actual total spending by DFCS decreased by 7.6% in SFY 2005 from the previous year and has decreased by 9.2% from its peak in SFY 2002. The actual level of spending on personnel (e.g. Salaries, Wages, and Fringe Benefits) in SFY 2005 decreased by 6.9% from the previous year and was at its lowest level since SFY 1999.

B. Mississippi Fails to Maximize Federal Funding Programs and Has Left Millions of Federal Dollars Unspent.

Mississippi's child welfare program is funded, like all other states, primarily with a combination of State and Federal funds (through numerous Federal programs, the most significant of which are detailed below). Indeed, the great majority (over 95%) of DFCS funding is derived from State and Federal funds.

To maximize the State's funding of its child welfare programs, it is obvious that the State must attempt to maximize Federal funding sources rather than pay for these activities solely with state or local funds. For the reasons set forth below, however, Mississippi has failed to maximize its Federal funding streams, and instead spends approximately \$7,000,000 or 41% of its allocated State funds without securing any Federal matching funds.

Titles IV-E and IV-B of the Social Security Act are the principal sources of Federal funds *dedicated* for child welfare activities. Other Federal programs, such as Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) and Temporary Assistance of Needy Families (TANF), are also used for child welfare purposes. A brief overview of the dedicated Federal funding programs, and the extent to which MDHS has accessed those available funds, follows.

1. The Title IV-E programs, the largest Federal funding stream, consists of the Foster Care program, the Adoption Assistance program, and the Chafee Foster Care Independence program.

The Title IV-E Foster Care Program is an uncapped (a potentially unlimited source of funding) entitlement which reimburses states for maintenance payments provided to cover shelter, food, and clothing for foster children whom the State has established as meeting certain Federal eligibility requirements; foster care placement and administrative costs; and training costs of staff, foster parents, and adoptive parents. Reimbursement for foster care maintenance payments has a Federal match equal to the state Medicaid matching rate. In FY 2005, Mississippi had the highest matching rate of all 50 states at 77.08% for maintenance payments; 50% for administrative costs, and 50% for training-related costs.

A major factor that contributes to MDHS's inability to maximize Federal funds, notwithstanding Mississippi high matching rate, is that the State has the lowest Title IV-E Foster Care eligibility

rate in the nation. Because the eligibility rate is determined in large part based upon income levels, and given that Mississippi is the poorest state in the nation, one would expect the State to have one of the highest eligibility rates in the nation. But MDHS has displayed a lack of organizational capacity to document Title IV-E eligibility for children who would otherwise be eligible.

As a result, expenses to care for the majority of foster care children must be paid solely by State funds; or, in some cases, shifted from the *uncapped* Title IV-E Foster Care program to the *capped* (a limited amount of funds are allotted to each state) Title IV-B Child Welfare Services program. It is not fiscally responsible to place the complete burden of the expense of foster care on the State when Federal matching funds are available. Similarly, it is not fiscally justifiable to shift the expense of caring for foster care children to Federal programs that are capped (and can fund other child welfare activities), when an open-ended source of Federal funds is available.

The Adoption Assistance Program is an *uncapped* entitlement which reimburses states for payments made to adoptive parents of eligible special needs children; administrative costs; training for staff and adoptive parents; and non-recurring expenses, such as court costs and attorney fees. Reimbursement for payments to adoptive parents has a Federal match equal to the state Medicaid matching rate, 77.08% in Mississippi in FY2005, which again was the highest of the 50 states; 50% for administrative costs; and 50% for training-related costs. Non-recurring expenses are reimbursed at a 50% Federal match up to \$2,000 per placement.

Mississippi ranks 49th lowest in the nation in Federal funds received per child through the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance program. The children for whom MDHS fails to access available adoption subsidy money either do not receive any adoption assistance or the adoption subsidies are paid solely by the State. This failure to claim money that the Federal government makes accessible for promoting adoptions, unnecessarily hobbles the State's adoption efforts, potentially keeping children unnecessarily in foster care.

The Chafee Foster Care Independence Program provides funding to states for services and programs to prepare youth who are currently or formerly in foster care to live independently after exiting foster care. The Chafee Program is a *capped* entitlement. Mississippi was allotted a total of \$970,291 in Chafee funds (\$723,166 for Independent Living and \$247,125 in Education and Training Vouchers) in FY 2005.

MDHS admits that it has not been able to draw down all of the Title IV-E Chafee Independent Living funds available because of the lack of State funds to serve as the 20% required State match. In the last three SFYs alone, MDHS has left \$1,087,107 in Title IV-E Chafee funds unspent because of the lack of State funds for the match.

2. Title IV-B, Subpart 1 (Child Welfare Services) and Subpart 2 (Promoting Safe and Stable Families) provide grants to states to pay for services to prevent child abuse and neglect, reduce foster care placements, reunite families, arrange adoption, and ensure adequate foster care. This is a *capped* Federal funding source. Mississippi's allotment for Child Welfare Services was \$3,769,621 in FY 2005 and its allotment for Promoting Safe and Stable Families was \$6,333,688 in that same fiscal year. The State is required to provide a 25% non-Federal funding match to access these funds.

Mississippi has a history of not spending the allotted Title IV-B (Promoting Safe and Stable Families) funds. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services found that Mississippi did not use \$6.2 million or 30% of the \$20.4 million of the Promoting Safe and Stable Families program grant funds available to the State for FY's 1994 through 1999 because State funds were not available for matching. In the last three years alone, Mississippi did not spend \$7,765,168 allotted to it by the Federal government through the Title IV-B Promoting Safe and Stable Families program.

Such fiscal mismanagement is particularly disturbing given that MDHS itself estimates that in SFY 2005 the Family Preservation Program, which is funded with Title IV-B (Promoting Safe and Stable Families) funds, saved the State of Mississippi \$33,348,720 in expenses that were avoided by keeping children in the parent's home. It is fiscally unjustifiable to leave millions of dollars unspent when the savings to the State are acknowledged by DFCS to be many times greater than the level of spending.

C. MDHS Has Failed to Effectively Manage the Funds It Has

1. **Spending:** Each year around April or May (the SFY ends on June 30), DFCS tends to run out of General Fund dollars. While the Division of Budgets and Accounting must look for other sources of general funds to transfer to DFCS, many functions of the Division (e.g. filling vacant positions and up-grading social workers) are halted. And, without general fund dollars, the Division cannot maximize Federal funds.

2. **Board Rates:** Mississippi spends more on foster care board payments than perhaps necessary because a relatively high percentage of the children in State custody are placed in group homes rather than in less-expensive foster homes. Board rates paid to group homes (\$900 to \$1,650 per month) are 2.5 to 5 times higher than board rates paid to foster care parents (\$325 to \$400 per month). Yet Mississippi has the next to the lowest percentage of children in non-relative foster care homes and the sixth highest percentage of its children in custody in group homes. Foster care placement is yet another area where Mississippi spends more and, in some cases, achieves a less than desirable result.

3. **Title IV-E Waiver Project:** The State requested a Title IV-E waiver, seeking to use the waiver to increase the nature and extent of available services to children and their families in an effort to reduce harm to children, reduce foster care placements, and achieve greater permanency and safety for children. The project was approved by the Department of Health and Human Services on September 17, 1998. After significant delays, implementation began on April 1, 2001 and the demonstration was approved to run for 60 months. The project was suspended after 42 months, however, and ended on September 30, 2004 due to staffing and cost issues (i.e. the project was not cost-neutral). The suspension of the waiver demonstration cost the State Title IV-E funds and highlighted the lack of organizational capacity to manage the process demanded of this waiver demonstration. The fact that MDHS does not have the capacity to manage a waiver demonstration in eight counties is another example of MDHS's inability to responsibly manage its fiscal resources.

4. **The Long-term Impact of Abuse and Neglect:** It is estimated that the total costs (direct costs and indirect costs) of abuse and neglect of children in Mississippi is \$940 million per year. Given this tremendous overall expense of child abuse and neglect to the State, it is imperative that the State marshal all possible funds and efficiently and effectively spend

those funds to care for the victims of child abuse and neglect and to prevent further harm. As set forth above, the State is failing in this regard.

II. Reviewer Qualifications

Bill M. Brister is the Director of Graduate Admissions and Assistant Professor of Finance at the Else School of Management at Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi. Dr. Brister has been on the faculty of Millsaps College for 16 years and served as Director of the MBA program at Millsaps College from 1993-1997. Dr. Brister has published numerous academic articles and has taught courses in Financial Management, Financial Markets and Institutions, International Finance, Business Statistics, and Portfolio Management.

From 1995 to 2000, Dr. Brister served as Co-Director of the Center for Applied Research at Millsaps College. In this position he directed the evaluation of the welfare reform demonstration conducted by the Mississippi Department of Human Services. This statewide evaluation included the compilation of detailed findings regarding the implementation of reforms in the State's welfare system stemming from the passage of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act.

Dr. Brister presented welfare reform evaluation findings routinely to the Executive Director of MDHS, key committees of the Mississippi Legislature, and to officials at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Dr. Brister also presented welfare reform related papers at professional conferences including the Annual Conference of Welfare Evaluators sponsored by the Administration of Children and Families, annual meetings of the National Association for Welfare Research and Statistics, and the American Statistical Association.

Dr. Brister has testified as to financial and economic issues on numerous occasions both in Mississippi's State and Federal courts. Dr Brister's CV is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

III. DFCS Budget Process

The formal process to construct and gain approval of the budget for the Division of Family and Children's Services begins with a planning memo (Budget Planning Memo) from the Director of the Division of Budgets and Accounting to the various Division Directors of MDHS including the Director of DFCS.⁷ The Budget Planning Memo is usually dated in May, June or July, approximately one year in advance of the state fiscal year for which the budget is being developed. The Budget Planning Memo instructs the Division Directors to produce a budget request for their division and informs the Division Directors of guidelines and any constraints to be followed in preparation of the budget request.⁸

The DFCS Director submits a DFCS Budget Request package in the form of a memo and attachments to the Director of Budgets, Cost Allocations, and Grants Management.⁹ This DFCS Budget Request includes a budget request for the SFY beginning approximately one year in the future, and supporting materials such as a Budget Narrative, Performance Indicators, and tables that show the Division's staffing needs.

The DFCS Budget Request represents the Division's most significant opportunity to formally communicate to MDHS the level of resources needed by DFCS to successfully fulfill its mission.¹⁰

MDHS budget planning instructions effectively prevented DFCS from freely requesting additional funds for Salaries, even though DFCS was aware that additional funds for Salaries were necessary to adequately care for the abused and neglected children of Mississippi.¹¹ The Budget Planning Memo for SFY 2005 (dated July 9, 2003) stated the following restriction: "Please remember that you may not change ... the FY 2005 Salaries and General Fund totals."¹² This constraint obviously prevented DFCS from requesting additional funds to pay salaries for much needed DFCS personnel. In fact, the Salaries budget line on the worksheet provided in the SFY 2005 Budget Planning Memo has the Salaries budget line already filled-in at the SFY 2004 level.¹³

From documents produced, it appears that no formal constraints were placed on DFCS subsequent to the SFY 2005 Budget Request in regard to the level of salaries that could be requested. As a result, DFCS requested increases in funds for total Salaries in both the SFY 2006 and SFY 2007 Budget Requests,¹⁴ but not enough to meet acknowledged personnel needs. Even these relatively modest requests for additional funds for payment of Salaries were not fulfilled. The actual level of spending on Salaries, Wages, and Fringe Benefits in SFY 2005 decreased by 6.9% from the previous year, and is at its lowest level since SFY 1999.¹⁵

IV. MDHS Budget Forecasting

In August of each year, MDHS submits a Budget Request to the Legislature. The DFCS budget request is included with the budget requests of the other MDHS divisions in the overall MDHS Budget Request. This MDHS Budget Request for DFCS contains a detailed budget breakdown that includes budget categories and sources of funds, a detailed Budget Narrative, and lists of contractors and suppliers of services. The MDHS Budget Request also includes the *actual* budget for the SFY just completed, the *estimated* budget for the SFY just beginning, and the *requested* budget for the upcoming SFY.

As set forth in Table 1,¹⁶ the estimates of funds (particularly Federal funds) to be received by DFCS in the coming year are extremely and unreasonably inaccurate forecasts of the actual funds subsequently received by DFCS. Over the last four fiscal years, the estimates of Federal funds to be received by DFCS have consistently and grossly over-stated the level of funding that actually transpired. This gross and consistent over-estimation of future funding misleadingly suggests that DFCS funding will significantly increase in the coming year from the past year, when, in fact, total funding of DFCS has generally declined over the last five fiscal years. This practice poses the risk that budgetary decision-makers in the Legislature will assume that budgetary problems at DFCS will be alleviated by substantial increases in future Federal funding, thereby, reducing the need for them to act through budgetary increases or stricter oversight.

For example, as set forth in Table 1, MDHS estimated at the beginning of SFY 2005 that \$54,961,939 in total Federal funds would be received and used by DFCS in SFY 2005. Then after SFY 2005 was complete, MDHS reports that Federal funds actually received by DFCS totaled only \$44,583,395, an over-estimate of \$10,378,544, or 23% of the actual level of Federal funding in SFY 2005. And this 23% over-estimate of Federal funding was a relatively small error compared to the forecasting errors of the previous three years.

For SFY 2004, MDHS estimated Federal funding for DFCS at \$85,221,197. Then actual Federal funding turned out to be only \$47,338,855 for SFY 2004. This is an over-estimation of \$37,882,342, or an 80% forecasting error.

For SFY 2003, MDHS estimated Federal funding for DFCS at \$97,806,195. Actual Federal funding turned out to be only \$43,213,560 for SFY 2003. This is an over-estimation of \$54,592,635, or a 126% forecasting error.

And in SFY 2002, MDHS over-estimated Federal funding by \$29,147,008, a 59% forecasting error.

As set forth above, the forecasts of future Federal funding as given by MDHS are highly inaccurate. In fact, the level of Federal funds actually received each year by DFCS seldom deviates more than 5% from the level received the previous year. The forecasters at MDHS would be much more accurate in their estimations if they would simply estimate the next year's Federal funds to be the same as the previous year's level of Federal funding. This method is not very creative, complex, or scientific; but much more accurate than whatever method is currently used.

V. The Budget of the Division of Family and Children's Services:

A. Total Revenue to DFCS

As set forth in the attached Table 2, total revenue received by DFCS in SFY 2005 decreased by \$5,296,192, or 7.6%, from the previous year.¹⁷ Total revenue received by DFCS did not significantly change between SFY 2001 and SFY 2004. Even in the face of continuous and dire warnings regarding dangerously high caseloads and inadequate funds to fulfill the mission of DFCS during this time period,¹⁸ the budget of DFCS has declined 9.24% since its peak in SFY 2002.

B. Total Federal Funding for DFCS

As set forth in the attached Table 2, total Federal funds received by DFCS totaled \$44,583,395 in SFY 2005. This is down \$9,210,167 or 17% from the peak in Federal funding in SFY 2001.¹⁹ The fiscally responsible course of action is to maximize the amount of Federal funds available to DFCS. Because of a low rate of Title IV-E eligibility determination, Mississippi does not maximize the uncapped funding available from the Title IV-E Foster Care program. Therefore, the expenditures for the care of most of the State's foster children are paid solely by State funds or by capped Federal funding programs. In some cases these capped sources of funds are overdrawn, as in the case of Title IV-B Child Welfare Services. DFCS must use 100% General Funds (State funds) to cover the overspending. This, in turn, reduces the ability of DFCS to match its other grants (i.e. Family preservation, Independent Living, Adoption Opportunities, etc.)²⁰, and therefore reduces the ability of DFCS to draw down the total Federal funds allotted to the state.

C. Total State (General Fund) Appropriation

As set forth in attached Table 2, the State of Mississippi contributed \$17,256,000 from its General Fund to the revenues of DFCS in SFY 2005. This represents a decrease of 17.4% from

the State funding peak of \$20,882,136 in SFY 2003.²¹ In order to maximize the amount of Federal funds available to DFCS, State funds should serve, to the extent possible, as a match for the drawdown of Federal funds. Mississippi, however, does not always draw down the Federal funds that are allocated to it because of the lack of State funds to serve as the match. Also, MDHS must spend State funds without Federal match for the care of many children in custody because MDHS does a poor job of determining eligibility of children for federal matching funds.

Except for SFY 2005, each year around April or May (the SFY ends on June 30), DFCS tends to run out of General Fund dollars causing disruption in the everyday functions of the Division and preventing the maximization of Federal funds.²² Better planning and forecasting of the use of general funds dollars could prevent this disruption of services.²³

D. The Percentage of State Funds Used as Match to Secure Federal Funds

Approximately 40% of the State funds appropriated to DFCS in SFY 2005 were not used to secure Federal matching funds.

The Federal funding programs and the approximated State match are set forth in the attached Table 3. As shown, DFCS spent \$17,256,000 of General Fund (State) money in SFY 2005. Approximately \$10,282,115 of this amount was used for matching funds to secure \$44,583,395 in Federal funds.²⁴ The balance of the State funds, approximately \$6,973,885, was spent by DFCS in SFY 2005 and not used to secure matching Federal monies.

The fact that Mississippi has the lowest Title IV-E eligibility rate in the country leads, in large part, to the fact that DFCS is forced to use a substantial percentage of its General Fund Allocation to support children in foster care without a Federal match. More will be discussed about Mississippi's Title IV-E eligibility rate and its financial impact later in this report.

E. Federal/State Ratio

The great majority (over 95%) of the total funds that support the spending of DFCS come from either the Federal government or the State government. As data in Table 2 establishes, the Federal government has funded 70.5% of the total spending by DFCS over the 1998-2005 time period, while the State government has funded 26.2%. Local sources fund a relatively small amount (usually less than 3%) of total spending by DFCS.²⁵

Over the entire 1998 through 2005 time period, the Federal government contributed \$2.69 to the DFCS budget for every \$1.00 contributed by the State of Mississippi.

The Federal/State funding ratio varies somewhat from year to year. For example, the federal share of the funding of DFCS was as high as 78.85% in 2001 and as low as 63.20% in 2003. The state funding share, of course, moves in the opposite direction and was at its lowest at 19.56% in 2001 and at its highest in 2003 at 30.54 percent.

In a fiscal environment where Federal funding is maximized and State funds are efficiently used as a match to secure Federal funds, a relatively high Federal/State ratio would be expected.

VI. Title IV-E

Mississippi received a total of \$14,919,822 in Title IV-E funds in SFY 2002.²⁶ As set forth in Table 4, that equates to \$20 per child in the State.²⁷ This is the lowest amount of Title IV-E funds per child of any of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. A combination of factors including low eligibility rates, spending in high state match categories, and not drawing down the full allotment of capped funds has resulting in the fact that Mississippi receives the lowest amount of Title IV-E funds per child in the nation. As discussed below, the low eligibility rate posted by Mississippi has persisted to date.

Another way to illustrate the fact that Mississippi receives a very low level of Title IV-E dollars from the Federal government is to understand that Mississippi's child population comprises 1.04% of the nation's child population. The Federal government in FY 2002 distributed a total of \$5,553,276,701 in Title IV-E funds to the states. Mississippi's share of the total Title IV-E funds, if based on child population, would have been \$57,955,532. Mississippi received only \$14,919,822, or 0.27% of the total Title IV-E funds allocated to the states.

A. Title IV-E Foster Care

Mississippi received \$10,531,505 in Title IV-E Foster Care funds from the Federal Government in SFY 2005²⁸. As set forth in attached Table 5, this figure represents a decrease of \$10,549,287, or 50%, from its peak in SFY 2001.

The Foster Care Program under Title IV-E is a permanent entitlement that provides open-ended matching payments to States for the costs of maintaining certain children in foster care, and associated administrative, child placement, and training costs. The percentage of foster care maintenance assistance payments that the Federal government will pay is set at the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP). The FMAP was 77.08% for Mississippi in FY 2005,²⁹ the highest FMAP in the nation.³⁰ In addition to a 77.08% match for maintenance payments, the Federal government will pay 75% of training expenses and 50% of administrative and database expenses.³¹

1. Title IV-E Foster Care Eligibility

Several eligibility criteria apply to the foster children on whose behalf Federal reimbursement is available to States. States are required to provide foster care maintenance payments to AFDC eligible children removed from the home of a relative if the child received or would have received AFDC (1996 criteria) prior to removal from the home and if the following also apply: (1) the removal and foster care placement were based on a voluntary placement agreement signed by the child's parents or guardians or a judicial determination that remaining in the home would be contrary to the child's welfare; (2) reasonable efforts were made to eliminate the need for removal or to return the child home; and (3) care and placement of the child are the responsibility of the State.³²

As set forth in attached Table 6, Mississippi, by far, has the lowest Title IV-E eligibility rate of the 47 states that reported data. In FFY 2002 only 23% of the children in foster care in Mississippi were eligible for Title IV-E reimbursement from the Federal government. Of the 3,261 children in the custody of the State, 23%, or 750 children³³, were determined to be eligible

for Title IV-E Foster Care reimbursement by the Federal government. The average reimbursement rate for the 47 states reporting was 62.6% in 2002.³⁴

MDHS's own reports to the Administration of Families and Children (ACF)³⁵ as summarized in the attached Table 7 show that in FFY 2002 a monthly average of 500 children out of 3,685 in State custody³⁶ received Title IV-E Foster Care reimbursement. This is a 13.6% Title IV-E eligibility rate. The Title IV-E eligibility rate was 18.0% in FFY 2003, 20.2% in FFY 2004, and 20.4% in FFY 2005.³⁷

Title IV-E eligibility is based, in large part, on income level. Since Mississippi, by most income measures, is the poorest state in the nation, it should have a relatively high Title IV-E eligibility rate.³⁸ But it has one of the lowest in the nation.³⁹ Some of the possible reasons for the low Title IV-E eligibility rate include chronic staff shortages, extremely high caseloads, and lack of administrative support.

2. The Financial Impact of the Low Title IV-E Foster Care Eligibility Rate

The Title IV-E Foster Care program is an open-ended entitlement. The result of the low Title IV-E Foster Care eligibility rate is that the cost of caring for the children in foster care who are not determined to be eligible for Title IV-E Foster Care reimbursement is paid solely by state and/or local funds. Or, in some cases, the cost is shifted to the capped Federal programs such as the Title IV-B Child Welfare Services program. To maximize Title IV-E Foster Care eligibility is the fiscally responsible course of action.⁴⁰ It certainly is not fiscally justifiable to place the complete burden of the expense of foster care on the State when Federal matching funds are available. And it is not fiscally justifiable to shift the expense of caring for foster care children to Federal programs that are capped when an open-ended source of Federal funds is available.⁴¹

MDHS reported that there was an average of 3,372 children receiving care in the custody of MDHS in FY 2005.⁴² On average, 688 of these children were eligible for Title IV-E Foster Care reimbursement.⁴³ As set forth in the attached Table 7, DHS reported that a total of \$7,946,420 in Title IV-E Foster Care funds were reimbursed by the Federal government in FFY 2005 to offset expenses related to the care of these 688 foster care children. That averages to \$11,550 in Federal Title IV-E money per child.⁴⁴

The expense for caring for the remaining 2,684 foster care children who are not determined to be Title IV-E eligible is shifted to the capped Title IV-B Child Welfare Services program.⁴⁵ However, the Title IV-B Child Welfare Services funds are substantially and consistently overspent. DFCS must use 100% State money to cover the overspending.⁴⁶

The fiscal implications of maximizing the Title IV-E eligibility rate are significant. The following table illustrates the increase in Title IV-E Foster Care Federal funds that would come to the State at various Title IV-E Foster Care eligibility rates.

<u>IV-E Eligibility Rate</u>	<u>Total IV-E Federal Funds⁴⁷</u>	<u>State Match⁴⁸</u>
20.4% (Current MS Rate)	\$7,946,420	\$2,362,895
40.6% (Double Current Rate)	\$15,812,320	\$4,701,847
62.6% (National Average)	\$24,380,572	\$7,249,646
80% (High Rate)	\$31,157,280	\$9,264,723

A higher Title IV-E eligibility rate means that the State receives an expense reimbursement from the Federal government for a higher percentage of children who in State custody. As a result, the amount of uncapped Title IV-E Foster Care funds coming to the State increases, thereby reducing the reliance of the State on the use of the capped Title IV-B Child Welfare Services grant or unmatched State funds to care for foster care children.⁴⁹

3. Title IV-E Foster Care Expenditure Categories and Matching Rates

As stated above, the matching rates for Title IV-E Foster Care expenditures vary with the type of expenditure claimed. Foster care maintenance costs are reimbursed at the State's FMAP Rate (77.08% in FY 2005), administrative costs at 50%, and training costs at 75%. Mississippi consistently spends the great majority of its Title IV-E Foster Care money in expense categories that receive the lowest Federal match.⁵⁰ Mississippi has the fifth lowest percentage of spending in the Foster Care Maintenance Category of all the states in the nation. As can be surmised from attached Table 8, Mississippi could have saved \$1,833,863 had it been possible to allocate Title IV-E expenditures into the various categories consistent with the national average.⁵¹

B. Title IV-E Adoption Assistance

The Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program is an open-ended entitlement program required of States that participate in TANF. The IV-E Adoption Assistance Program funds three distinct types of activities: assistance payments for qualified children who are adopted, administrative payments for expenses associated with placing children in adoption, and training of professional staff and parents involved in adoptions. Under the Adoption Assistance Program, which is permanently authorized, states develop adoption assistance agreements with parents who adopt eligible children with special needs. Federal matching funds are provided to States that, under these agreements, provide adoption assistance payments to parents who adopt AFDC or SSI eligible children with special needs. In addition, the program authorizes Federal matching funds for States that reimburse the nonrecurring adoption expenses of adoptive parents of special-needs children (regardless of AFDC or SSI eligibility).⁵²

The percentage of adoption assistance payments that the Federal government will pay is set at the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP). The FMAP was 77.08 % for Mississippi in FY 2005.⁵³ In addition to the FMAP match for adoption assistance payments, the Federal government will pay 50% of state and local administrative expenses and 75% of training expenses. Non-recurring expenses are reimbursed at a 50% federal match up to \$2,000 per placement.

To maximize Title IV-E Adoption Assistance eligibility is the fiscally responsible course of action. However, as set forth in attached Table 6, Mississippi has the lowest Title IV-E Adoption Assistance eligibility rate in the nation.⁵⁴ The non-IV-E eligible children either do not receive adoption assistance or adoption subsidies are paid solely by the State.⁵⁵

In FFY 2002, Mississippi received \$3,575,228 in federal funds for the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance program.⁵⁶ This equates to \$4.70 per child in the state. By comparison, the federal government distributed \$1,341,737,302 to the states in FFY 2002 through the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance program. This equates to \$18.40 per child in the nation. Mississippi ranks 49th lowest in the nation in federal funds received per child through the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance program.⁵⁷

C. Title IV-E Foster Care Independence Program (Chafee Independence Program)

The Chafee Foster Care Independence Program provides funding to states for services and programs to prepare youth who are currently or formerly in foster care to live independently after exiting foster care. The Independence program has two components – the Independence Program and the Education and Training Vouchers Program. The Chafee Independence Program is a capped state entitlement. Mississippi's allotment for the Chafee Independence Program in FFY 2003 totaled \$953,267 (\$730,819 for Independent Living and \$222,448 in Education and Training Vouchers). In FFY 2004, Mississippi's allotment for the Chafee Independence Program totaled \$1,005,560 (\$758,148 for Independent Living and \$247,412 in Education and Training Vouchers). And in FFY 2005, Mississippi was allotted a total of \$970,291 in Chafee funds (\$723,166 for Independent Living and \$247,125 in Education and Training Vouchers).⁵⁸

Mississippi has a history of not spending the Chafee Independent Living funds allotted to it. In the last three fiscal years (2003-2005) alone, Mississippi has failed to draw down a total of \$1,087,107, or 37% of the funds allotted to the State.⁵⁹ The Chafee Independent Living grant requires a 20% State match. For \$271,777 in State money spread over three years, the State could have drawn down an additional \$1,087,107 in Federal money to care for and educate the abused and neglected adolescents of Mississippi.⁶⁰

D. Title IV-E Foster Care Waiver Demonstration

The State requested a Title IV-E waiver, seeking to use the waiver to increase the nature and extent of available services to children and their families in an effort to reduce harm to children, reduce foster care placements, and achieve greater permanency and safety for children.⁶¹ The project was approved by the Department of Health and Human Services on September 17, 1998. After significant delays, implementation began on April 1, 2001 and the demonstration was approved to run for 60 months. The project was suspended after 42 months, however, and ended on September 30, 2004. The suspension of the waiver demonstration cost the State Title IV-E funds and highlighted the way in which chronic staffing shortage impacts the ability of DFCS to access all available federal funds.⁶²

VII. Title IV-B, Subpart 1, Child Welfare Services

Title IV-B, Subpart 1, Child Welfare Services (CWS) provides grants to states to pay for services to prevent child abuse and neglect, reduce foster care placements, reunite families, arrange adoption, and ensure adequate foster care services. The Division of Family and Children's Services has historically overspent the capped Title IV-B CWS grant. In the last three years (2003-2005) alone, DFCS has overspent its allotment of Title IV-B CWS funds by a total of \$6,754,211.⁶³

The Division must use 100% General Funds to cover the overspending. This reduces MDHS's ability to match its other grants (i.e. Family Preservation, Independent Living, Adoption Opportunities, etc.)⁶⁴ The low eligibility rate in Title IV-E programs, which are uncapped funding sources, forces expenditures to care for foster care children into this capped Title IV-B program.⁶⁵

VIII. Title IV-B, Subpart 2, Promoting Safe and Stable Families

Title IV-B, Subpart 2 Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) is a capped entitlement program that provides grants to states for services to: support families; avert foster care placement; reunify foster children with their families; and, promote adoption.

Mississippi has a history of not spending the allotted Title IV-B Promoting Safe and Stable Families funds. On April 22, 2002, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) reported that "Mississippi did not use \$6.2 million or 30% of the \$20.4 million of the Promoting Safe and Stable Families program grant funds available for FYs 1994 through 1999 because State funds were not available for matching. State officials said they were unable to expend all of the Federal funds during those FYs because of the lack of general funds dollars being appropriated by the legislature to use as matching funds. ... We believe that two States, Florida and Louisiana, have resolved their problems and should be able to use all of their grant funds in future grant periods. The problems identified in two other States, Mississippi and Arkansas, are expected to continue and can result in unspent grant funds being reported on their financial status reports."⁶⁶

As anticipated by HHS, Mississippi continued to not spend the allotted Title IV-B PSSF funds. In the last three years (2003-2005) alone, Mississippi has left \$7,765,168 in Title IV-B PSSF funds unspent.⁶⁷ To obtain these funds, the State is required to provide a 25% match. In other words, Mississippi could have claimed \$7,765,168 in Federal funds with a State match of \$2,588,389 spread over three years.

This would have been money well spent. By MDHS's own calculations, the Family Preservation Program, which is funded by Title IV-B PSSF funds, saved the State \$33,348,720 in SFY 2005 alone.⁶⁸ But rather than expanding a program that is dramatically successful, DFCS was forced to reduce the size of the program. The reason given was:

Due to the State budget situation and the lack of funds to fill positions, some Family Preservation positions were abolished or put in use for other social service needs such as social work functions. This has reduced the ranks of the Family Preservation Program from its status of a year ago.⁶⁹

It is fiscally unjustifiable to leave millions of Federal dollars unspent and to abolish Family Preservation positions when the cost savings to the State from the program that the spending would have supported are so dramatic.

And to add insult to injury, MDHS appears to have abolished 39 Family Preservation positions in 2002 that would have been funded with 100% Federal TANF funds.⁷⁰

IX. Social Services Block Grant

The Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) is a capped entitlement program with no required state match. States are given wide discretion to determine the services funded by SSBG and the population eligible to receive those services. States use SSBG funds for various child welfare related activities, including preventive, protective, and adoption services, and services for children in foster care. SSBG funds may also be used for room and board in cases of temporary emergency shelter provided in protective service cases. States can also transfer up to 10% of their TANF grant to SSBG, which may in turn be used to support a broad range of child welfare activities.⁷¹

As set forth in attached Table 5, the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) funding has been a very volatile revenue component in the DFCS budget over the SFY 1998 though 2005 time period. SSBG funding in the DFCS budget has been as high as \$15,127,626 in SFY 1998 and as low as \$36,806 in SFY 2003⁷². In SFY 2005 the SSBG amount allocated to DFCS was \$3,450,360 and was \$3,467,503 in SFY 2004.⁷³

X. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

TANF is a capped block grant program with no required state match, although states must spend their own funds to receive the grant.⁷⁴ Within certain guidelines, states may fund various child welfare activities using TANF funds, including family reunification, parenting education, and in-home, as well as crisis intervention services. States can also use TANF funds to support children whom DFCS has removed from their parents' homes and placed with relative or kinship caregivers. States can also transfer up to 10 percent of their TANF grant to SSBG, which may in turn be used to support a broad range of child welfare activities.⁷⁵

TANF funds entered the funding stream for the DFCS budget beginning in the year 2000. Since that time, TANF has become the single largest source of federal funding for DFCS. As set forth in attached Table 5, TANF funding has averaged \$19,367,915 per year in the 2001 through 2004 time period.⁷⁶

XI. DFCS Budget Categories and Trends

DFCS spending falls in the following six categories.

A. Salaries, Wages, and Fringe

As can be construed from the attached Table 9, the single largest budget category of spending over the eight-year period that spans 1998 through 2005 is Salaries, Wages, and Fringe Benefits. For that period, the Salary, Wages, and Fringe Benefits category of spending comprised 36.4% of the total spending of DFCS.⁷⁷

A consistent theme in Budget Narratives produced by DFCS is that DFCS suffers from chronic staffing shortages.⁷⁸ In spite of warning that DFCS caseworkers were carrying dangerously high caseloads, and that the State was losing available child welfare money because of staffing shortages, the level of spending on Salaries dropped by \$1,709,539, or 6.9%, from SFY 2004 to SFY 2005. In fact, actual spending on Salaries in SFY 2005 are at their lowest level since SFY 1999.

B. Subsidies, Loans, and Grants

For the 1998-2005 period, the category of Subsidies, Loans, and Grants was the second largest category of spending by DFCS, just slightly less than Salaries. This category comprised 35.7% of total DFCS spending over the eight year period. During the most recent five years (2001-2005), the level of Subsidies, Loans, and Grants has been somewhat stable with an average annual level of \$24,561,838.

In 2005, the two largest single sub-categories of Subsidies, Loans, and Grants were MDHS Grants to Non-Governmental Institutions (\$11,447,164) and Foster Care (\$12,279,848). The Foster Care sub-category includes board payments made to foster care parents which totaled approximately \$6,000,000 in 2005.⁷⁹

C. Contractual Services

Contractual Services is a relatively large category of spending comprising 22.5% of the DFCS budget in the eight years given (1998-2005). Spending in the Contractual Services category has declined by \$5,823,116, or 30.3%, since its peak in SFY 2002. Major objects of expenditure within this category include Utilities, Rent, Professional Fees, and Data Processing. Spending on Personnel Services Contracts has comprised over half of the spending in the Contractual Services category since 2001. Prior to 2001, spending on Personnel Services Contracts was relatively small compared to the level of spending in 2001 and thereafter.

D. Travel

Travel had been a relatively stable category of spending averaging \$2,288,573 per year over the four year period from 2001-2004. However, Travel expenditures decreased by 15.5% in SFY 2005. Over the 1998-2005 periods, Travel comprised 3.2% of the total expenditures by DFCS.

E. Equipment

Purchase of Equipment is also a relative small, but volatile, category of spending in the DFCS budget. Over the seven year period from 1998 through 2004, purchases of equipment averaged \$1,168,699 per year. But in SFY 2005 Equipment purchases decreased to \$76,658. Equipment purchases average less than 2% of the total DFCS budget.

F. Commodities

Purchase of commodities represents a very small category of spending by DFCS. In every year since 1998, spending on commodities has been less than 1% of the total DFCS budget.

XII. Board Rates Compared to Cost of Raising a Child

Mississippi board rates cover only a fraction of the total cost of raising a child.⁸⁰ In fact, the Mississippi board payment to foster care parents in rural areas covers approximately 50% of the total cost of raising a child (excluding medical care) for a family with total income between \$41,400 and \$69,700 in 2004.

MDHS reports that foster care board rates in Mississippi per month are as follows:⁸¹

Age/Status	Board	Clothing	Personal Allowance	Total Payment
0-3	\$280	\$45	\$0	\$325
4-5	\$285	\$50	\$0	\$335
6-9	\$285	\$50	\$20	\$355
10-12	\$290	\$60	\$25	\$375
13-15	\$300	\$60	\$30	\$390
16-21	\$300	\$65	\$35	\$400
Special Needs I				\$440
Special Needs II				\$500
Therapeutic Foster Home			\$700	
Medical/Treatment Emergency Foster Home				\$700
Foster Teen Parent Emergency Group Shelter				\$725
Therapeutic Group Home			\$900	
Contractual Rates Emergency Group Shelter				\$1,650
Therapeutic Foster Home				\$2,160
Therapeutic Group Home				\$2,160

These rates went into effect on July 1, 1999.

The following table compares the annual cost of raising a child (excluding medical care) as reported by the DOA for families with income below \$41,300 in the Urban South in 2004 to the annual board rate received by foster care providers in Mississippi for various age children. Approximately 60% of the cost of raising a child is covered by foster care maintenance payments to foster care parents in this category.

Age	Annual Board Rate	Annual DOA Estimate of Cost of Raising a Child	Board Rate as % of Cost
2	\$3,900	\$6,460	60.4%
5	\$4,020	\$6,690	60.1%
8	\$4,260	\$6,640	64.2%
11	\$4,500	\$6,620	68.0%
14	\$4,680	\$7,410	63.2%
17	\$4,800	\$7,390	65.0%

The following table compares the annual cost of raising a child (excluding medical care) as reported by the DOA for families with income between \$41,300 and \$69,500 in the Urban South in 2004 to the annual board rate received by foster care providers in Mississippi for various age children. Approximately 45% of the cost of raising a child is covered by foster care maintenance payments to foster care parents in this category.

Age	Annual Board Rate	Annual DOA Estimate of Cost of Raising a Child	Board Rate as % of Cost
2	\$3,900	\$9,120	42.8%
5	\$4,020	\$9,470	42.4%
8	\$4,260	\$9,280	45.9%
11	\$4,500	\$9,160	49.1%
14	\$4,680	\$9,820	47.7%
17	\$4,800	10,140	47.3%

The following table compares the annual cost of raising a child (excluding medical care) as reported by the DOA for families with income below \$41,400 in the Rural Areas in 2004 to the annual board rate received by foster care providers in Mississippi for various age children. Approximately 70% of the cost of raising a child is covered by foster care maintenance payments to foster care parents in this category.

Age	Annual Board Rate	Annual DOA Estimate of Cost of Raising a Child	Board Rate as % of Cost
2	\$3,900	\$5,720	68.2%
5	\$4,020	\$5,940	67.7%
8	\$4,260	\$5,930	71.8%
11	\$4,500	\$5,930	75.9%
14	\$4,680	\$6,710	69.7%
17	\$4,800	\$6,670	72.0%

The following table compares the annual cost of raising a child (excluding medical care) as reported by the DOA for families with income between \$41,400 and \$69,700 in the Rural areas in 2004 to the annual board rate received by foster care providers in Mississippi for various age children. Approximately 50% of the cost of raising a child is covered by foster care maintenance payments to foster care parents in this category.

Age	Annual Board Rate	Annual DOA Estimate of Cost of Raising a Child	Board Rate as % of Cost
2	\$3,900	\$8,310	46.9%
5	\$4,020	\$8,640	46.5%
8	\$4,260	\$8,490	50.2%
11	\$4,500	\$8,400	53.6%
14	\$4,680	\$9,060	51.7%
17	\$4,800	\$9,350	51.3%

Mississippi board rates cover only a fraction of the total cost of raising a child. While most individuals decide to become foster parents for reasons other than financial, the financial considerations do play a role. If board payments were higher and paid a higher percentage of the total cost of caring for a child, the supply of foster homes would increase, and more foster parents would be willing and able to foster more than one child.

XIII. Placement Settings and Comparative Board Rates of Children in MDHS Care

As set forth in attached Table 10, Mississippi had placed 34% of the children in its custody in a licensed non-relative foster care home as of September 30, 2001.⁸² Of the 50 states and DC, Mississippi places the next to the lowest percentage of children in Non-Relative Foster Homes. The average for the States and DC is 52.7% of the children in State custody placed in Non-Relative Foster Homes. The average board payment for a child in custody in Mississippi is approximately \$375 per month or \$4,500 per year, for a child in a licensed foster home.

Mississippi also places a high percentage of children in its custody in Group Home situations. Mississippi places 18% of the children in custody in Group Homes compared to the national average of 8.8 percent.

Group care are a much more expensive method to house the children in the custody of the State. Yet Mississippi has the next to the lowest percentage of children in non-relative foster care homes and the sixth highest percentage of its children in custody in Group Homes. Foster care placement is yet another area where Mississippi spends more and, in some cases achieves a less than desirable result.

XIV. The Long-Term Economic Impact of Child Abuse and Neglect

Cost-of-injury analysis (also referred to as cost-of-illness or cost-of-failure analysis) attempts to estimate the economic impact of child abuse and neglect on society (or on a local community).⁸³ In other words, how much does it cost when a community fails to prevent child abuse and neglect?

These analyses frequently estimate both direct and indirect costs associated with child maltreatment.

Direct costs include those associated with addressing the immediate needs of maltreated children. They might include:

- Hospitalization for severe injuries resulting from abuse and neglect
- Medical treatment (such as physician visits, emergency department visits, outpatient clinics, dental visits, physical therapy, etc.) for health problems resulting from abuse and neglect
- Mental health treatment for issues resulting from abuse and neglect
- Child welfare services to intervene in existing cases of child abuse and neglect
- Law enforcement and judicial system costs associated with intervention.

Indirect costs include those associated with the long-term and secondary effects of maltreatment, as well as productivity losses for the abused child (missing school) or parent/caretaker (needing to attend criminal hearings or stay home with an injured child). Examples of indirect costs include:

- Special education costs

- Treatment for chronic physical and mental health problems as a result of child abuse and neglect
- Costs of increased juvenile delinquency and adult criminality
- Lost productivity to society (due to decreased earning potential, unemployment, or premature death)
- Costs associated with treatment of increased substance abuse
- Costs associated with interventions for domestic violence resulting from child maltreatment.

In 2001, Prevent Child Abuse America released report that estimated the annual costs in the United States of both the direct and the indirect results of child abuse and neglect.⁸⁴ The following table includes these estimates of the overall costs associated with child abuse and neglect.

<u>Direct Costs</u>	<u>Estimated Annual Cost</u>
Hospitalization	\$6,205,395,000
Chronic Health Problems	\$2,987,957,400
Mental Health Care System	\$425,110,400
Child Welfare System	\$14,400,000,000
Law Enforcement	\$24,709,800
Judicial System	\$341,174,702
Total Direct Costs	\$24,384,347,302

<u>Indirect Costs</u>	<u>Estimated Annual Cost</u>
Special Education	\$223,607,830
Mental Health and Health Care	\$4,627,636,025
Juvenile Delinquency	\$8,805,291,372
Lost Productivity to Society	\$656,000,000
Adult Criminality	\$55,380,000,000
Total Indirect Costs	\$69,692,535,227

<u>Total Costs</u>	<u>\$94,076,882,529</u>
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Mississippi's population comprises about 1% of the national population. Assuming that Mississippi's share of the annual national cost of child abuse and neglect is 1%, the total annual cost of child abuse and neglect in Mississippi is approximately \$940,768,825.

Given this tremendous overall expense of child abuse and neglect to the State, it is imperative that the State marshal all possible funds and efficiently and effectively spend those funds to care for the victims of child abuse and neglect and to prevent further abuse and neglect to the children of Mississippi.

XV. Conclusion

Fiscal mismanagement and improper budgeting practices by MDHS has resulted in a severely underfunded foster care system. The MDHS budget process is deeply flawed. Despite years of reports that high social worker caseloads were placing children at risk, MDHS has failed to request that the Division be funded at a level necessary to hire the caseworkers it acknowledges it needs. The requests that MDHS does make are based on gross overestimations of future federal funding.

Under the federal Title IV-E program, the federal government is willing to shoulder most of the costs of providing foster care services, including 77% of the maintenance of Title IV-E eligible children (which is the highest match rate in the country). Because MDHS has not properly established Title IV-E eligibility, the State receives the lowest amount of Title IV-E funds per child in the nation. In other words, Mississippi has the most financially to gain from properly claiming Title IV-E funds, but is the state least likely to do so.

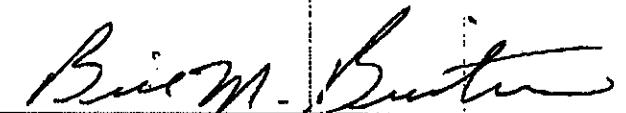
MDHS pays for foster care costs that could be covered by Title IV-E funds with both state funds and Title IV-B funds. It is fiscally unjustifiable to use state funds that could be spent to hire the much-needed additional caseworkers which MDHS has acknowledged are necessary to adequately staff the child welfare system when federal monies are available. It is equally fiscally unsound to pay for foster care services that could be covered by unlimited Title IV-E reimbursements with capped Title IV-B funds.

Mississippi has also left millions of more dollars in allocated federal funds unspent by not providing state funds necessary to meet the federal matching requirement. Millions of dollars that could have been spent on providing services to keep children safely with their families, or to move children from foster care to adoptive homes have been not been claimed by MDHS. If MDHS were to maximize its Title IV-E funding, state funds could be freed up to claim these additional available federal dollars. There is no fiscal justification for the MDHS practice of not claiming and spending federal money for services that would effectively lower state costs by helping to reduce the number of children in foster care custody.

Furthermore, MDHS has not effectively managed the funds it has available to it. By placing such a large percentage of its foster children in group care, rather than less expensive foster homes, and by reducing funding for programs intended to keep children out of the foster care system entirely, MDHS wastes money that could be applied to claim further federal dollars.

Over the last year, MDHS has forfeited millions of dollars in federal funds, and has misallocated the scarce money that it has. In a child welfare system plagued by the effects of severe underfunding, this fiscal mismanagement is inexcusable.

Dated: February 7, 2006
Jackson, Mississippi


Bill M. Brister, Ph.D

ENDNOTES

¹ It is my understanding that discovery in this matter is not complete. I reserve the right to amend this report and/or its attachments upon the receipt of additional information.

² DHS 047498-499; DHS 030742-46.

³ Calculations based on 3,372 children in State custody and an \$11,550 per child Title IV-E Federal Payment for FFY 2005.

⁴ Based on the FY 2005 FMAP rate of 77.08 percent.

⁵ FY 2005 at DHS 030657-692, FY 2006 at DHS 030693-747, FY 2007 at DHS 053703-732.

⁶ The State Fiscal Year (SFY) ends on June 30 of each year. The Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) ends on September 30 of each year.

⁷ SFY 2004 at DHS 053621-647, SFY 2005 at DHS 053648-671, SFY 2006 at DHS 053672-677, SFY 2007 at DHS 053678-681.

⁸ Deposition of Teressa Jackson (Jackson DEP) at 15:6-15:17.

⁹ FY 2005 at DHS 030657-692, FY 2006 at DHS 030693-747, FY 2007 at DHS 053703-732.

¹⁰ DHS 068342 (Sue Perry, then Director of DFCS, in a memo to Senior Management Staff asks them to submit personnel needs in order to comply with caseload standards of CWLA. She then states, "I do not know what we will be permitted to request in the end, but let's be sure our true needs are known going in.")

¹¹ Expert Report of Dr. Cathy R. Crabtree dated February 7, 2006 (Crabtree Report), discussion at II.A.

¹² Similarly, in the Budget Planning Memo dated June 18, 2001, Sandra Maddox, Director of the Division of Budgets and Accounting gives the following parameter, "...in developing your FY 2003 budget request, Mrs. Brooks [Executive Director of MDHS] has stated that we will not be requesting an increase for FY 2003." DHS 062872.

¹³ DHS 053648-671 (When DFCS submitted its SFY 2005 budget request to MDHS, the Salaries budget line is unchanged from the SFY 2004 level, as instructed by MDHS. But in the Budget Narrative, DFCS provides substantial data and makes numerous statements that show that additional personnel are exactly what DFCS desperately needs to adequately care for the abused and neglected children of Mississippi. In the SFY 2005 DFCS Budget Request there is an obvious disconnect between the budget request numbers provided on the budget forms and the description of the resources needed.).

At her deposition, Teresa Jackson, Director of Administration for DFCS, testified that Peter Boulette, Budget Director at MDHS, established the parameter for the SFY 2005 DFCS Budget Request that DFCS may not ask to reinstate abolished PINS. Jackson DEP at 22:18 -22:22.

¹⁴ SFY 2006 at DHS 053138-207, SFY 2007 at DHS 059090-128.

¹⁵ SFY 2007 at DHS 059090-059128, SFY 2006 at DHS 031539-031606, SFY 2005 at DHS 031467-031538, SFY 2004 at DHS 031395-031466, SFY 2003 at DHS 031315-031394, SFY 2002 at DHS 031245-031314, SFY 2001 at DHS 031177-031244, SFY 2000 at DHS 031111-031176.

Data given in attached Table 9.

¹⁶SFY 2007 at DHS 059090-059128, SFY 2006 at DHS 031539-031606, SFY 2005 at DHS 031467-031538, SFY 2004 at DHS 031395-031466, SFY 2003 at DHS 031315-031394, SFY 2002 at DHS 031245-031314, SFY 2001 at DHS 031177-031244, SFY 2000 at DHS 031111-031176.

¹⁷ SFY 2007 at DHS 059090-059128, SFY 2006 at DHS 031539-031606, SFY 2005 at DHS 031467-031538, SFY 2004 at DHS 031395-031466, SFY 2003 at DHS 031315-031394, SFY 2002 at DHS 031245-031314, SFY 2001 at DHS 031177-031244, SFY 2000 at DHS 031111-031176.

¹⁸ Crabtree Report, Discussion at II.A.

¹⁹ SFY 2007 at DHS 059090-059128, SFY 2006 at DHS 031539-031606, SFY 2005 at DHS 031467-031538, SFY 2004 at DHS 031395-031466, SFY 2003 at DHS 031315-031394, SFY 2002 at DHS 031245-031314, SFY 2001 at DHS 031177-031244, SFY 2000 at DHS 031111-031176.

²⁰ FY 2003 Budget Presentation by Janice Broome Brooks, Executive Director of MDHS, DHS 058611.

²¹ SFY 2007 at DHS 059090-059128, SFY 2006 at DHS 031539-031606, SFY 2005 at DHS 031467-031538, SFY 2004 at DHS 031395-031466, SFY 2003 at DHS 031315-031394, SFY 2002 at DHS 031245-031314, SFY 2001 at DHS 031177-031244, SFY 2000 at DHS 031111-031176.

²² SFY 2000 at DHS 030769-80, SFY 2001 at DHS 030781-802, SFY 2002 at DHS 030803-14, SFY 2003 at DHS 030815-26, and SFY 2004 at DHS 030827-37.

²³ DHS 062095 (Memo dated April 25, 2000, from Sue Perry, Director of DFCS, to Mary Ross, Deputy Director of Programs, informing her that, "Each year around this time, DFCS runs out of general fund dollars. My concern is that so many functions are stopped while other funds are being identified. It would seem to me that if we know each year this is going to happen shouldn't we have a plan in place ahead of time, so that disruption of our everyday functions can be avoided?").

²⁴ The State required match in Table 3 attached to this report was estimated by calculating the required State match to draw down the amount of federal dollars received from each Federal funding program as given in the FY 2007 MDHS Budget Requests at DHS 059090-059128.

²⁵ SFY 2007 at DHS 059090-059128, SFY 2006 at DHS 031539-031606, SFY 2005 at DHS 031467-031538, SFY 2004 at DHS 031395-031466, SFY 2003 at DHS 031315-031394, SFY 2002 at DHS 031245-031314, SFY 2001 at DHS 031177-031244, SFY 2000 at DHS 031111-031176.

²⁶ Urban Institute, The Cost of Protecting Vulnerable Children IV, 2004, page 17.

²⁷ The total resident population under age 18 in Mississippi as of July 1, 2002 was 760,747 according the U.S. Census Bureau.

²⁸ DHS 059094.

²⁹ Department of Medicaid 2004 Annual Report at
<http://www.mississippi.gov/frameset.jsp?URL=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.dom.state.ms.us%2F>

³⁰ Reported by the U.S. Department of Health and Human services at <http://aspe.hhs.gov/health/fmap05.htm>

³¹ DHS 066738-066769.

³² House Ways and Means Committee Prints: 108-6, 2004 Green Book, Section 11, page 8.

³³ Urban Institute, The Cost of Protecting Vulnerable Children IV, 2004, page 120.

³⁴ *Id.* at page 17.

³⁵ FFY 2002 at DHS 031001-009, FFY 2003 at DHS 031048-057, FFY 2004 at DHS 031092-102, FFY 2005 at DHS 091918-922.

³⁶ The number of children in State custody is taken from the SFY MDHS Budget Requests from Program Performance Indicators and Measures. SFY 2007 at DHS 059090-059128, SFY 2006 at DHS 031539-031606, SFY 2005 at DHS 031467-031538, SFY 2004 at DHS 031395-031466.

³⁷ The Institute for Applied Research, which served as evaluator of the Title IV-E demonstration project of MDHS gives Title IV-E eligibility rates for the State at 31% in 1999, 31% in 2000, 26% in 2001, and 19% in 2002. Presentation slides at <http://www.iarstl.org/papers/MSSlidesMay2005.pdf>.

³⁸ The Institute for Applied Research, which served as evaluator of the Title IV-E demonstration project of MDHS, comments that "while Mississippi ranked first in child poverty among the 50 states in 2000, first in the percent of families in poverty, first in the number of households headed by single women, and 47th in median household income, it was, at the same time, 42nd in the percent of foster care cases determined to be eligible for IV-E. In 2001 it ranked 46th in the percent of IV-E eligible foster care cases and in 2002 it ranked 48th."

³⁹ DFCS has an administrative unit, the Eligibility Unit, whose function is to maximize the Title IV-E funding to support Foster Care and Adoption Assistance placements. This unit's efforts are designed to reduce the utilization of capped federal funds and state funds. The existence of the Eligibility Unit notwithstanding, Mississippi still has the lowest Title IV-E participation rate in the country.

The low Title IV-E eligibility rate is also addressed in Jackson DEP at 86:5-86:20 and Jackson DEP at 114:12-115:17.

⁴⁰ Deposition of Billy Mangold (Mangold DEP) at 84:13-84:21.

⁴¹ Jackson DEP at 84:6-84:18.

⁴² DHS 059116.

⁴³ DHS 091922.

⁴⁴ There exists an inexplicable discrepancy between the reported Title IV-E Foster Care Federal funds in the MDHS Budget Requests and the Title IV-E Quarterly Reports submitted to ACF. It was reported in the FY 2007 MDHS Budget Request (DHS 059094) that \$10,531,505 was received from title IV-E Foster Care program. It was reported in the Title IV-E Quarterly Reports (DHS 031092-110, DHS 053610-14, and DHS 091923-26) that \$9,195,033 was reimbursed to the State through the Title IV-E Foster Care program in SFY 2005.

⁴⁵ Jackson DEP at 84:6-85:8.

⁴⁶ Jackson DEP at 84:11-84:18; DHS 058618 (Broome Presentation).

⁴⁷ Calculations based on 3,372 children in State custody and an \$11,550 per child Title IV-E Federal Payment.

⁴⁸ Based on the FY 2005 FMAP rate of 77.08 percent.

⁴⁹ DHS 000864 (In a January 7, 2004, memo to the Regional Directors of DFCS, Gloria Salters, Bureau Director of DFCS warns, "It is very important that those children who are Title IV-E eligible retain this eligibility status. Due to the current budget situation, we cannot afford to lose Title IV-E funds. These are the only funds that are available and are not capped. During the quarter, the change in eligibility status resulted in a loss of approximately \$154,000 in Title IV-E funding. This equates to approximately six (6) Social Worker positions. The loss in title IV-E funding impacts the Division's ability to fund positions and provide services.").

⁵⁰ FFY 2002 at DHS 031001-9, FFY 2003 at DHS 031048-57, FFY 2004 at DHS 031092-102, and FFY 2005 at DHS 091918-22.

⁵¹ House Ways and Means Committee Prints: 108-6, 2004 Green Book, Section 11, pages 23-24.

⁵² This description of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance program is taken from: Ways and Means Committee Prints: 108-6, 2004 Green Book, Section 11, page 33.

⁵³ Department of Medicaid 2004 Annual Report at <http://www.mississippi.gov/frameset.jsp?URL=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.dom.state.ms.us%2F>

⁵⁴ Urban Institute, The Cost of Protecting Vulnerable Children IV, 2004, page 17.

⁵⁵ House Ways and Means Committee Prints: 108-6, 2004 Green Book, Section 11, page 35.

⁵⁶ House Ways and Means Committee Prints: 108-6, 2004 Green Book, Section 11, page 38; and DHS 031006.

The Title IV-E Adoption Assistance funding from the federal government is not listed as a Federal source of funds on the MDHS Budget Requests. References are made to these funds in the Budget Narrative, but no separate line item for Title IV-E Adoption Assistance is given in the budget tables.

FFY 2002 at DHS 031001-9, FFY 2003 at DHS 031048-57, FFY 2004 at DHS 031092-102, and FFY 2005 at DHS 091918-22 (These data are taken from the Title IV-E Quarterly reports as submitted by DFCS to AFC. As set forth in attached Table 5, \$5,661,652 was spent on eligible children in the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance program. The federal government's share of these expenditures was 71.8%, or \$4,065,195.).

⁵⁷ Ways and Means Committee Prints: 108-6, 2004 Green Book, Section 11, pages 38-39.

⁵⁸ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services at <http://www.nrcys.ou.edu/nrcyd/programs/chafee.shtml> and <http://www.nrcys.ou.edu/nrcyd/programs/etv.shtml>.

SFY 2007 at DHS 059090-059128, SFY 2006 at DHS 031539-031606, SFY 2005 at DHS 031467-031538, SFY 2004 at DHS 031395-031466, SFY 2003 at DHS 031315-031394, SFY 2002 at DHS 031245-031314, SFY 2001 at DHS 031177-031244, SFY 2000 at DHS 031111-031176 (The level of Title IV-E Chaffee funding actually received by MDHS is given in attached Table 5.).

⁵⁹ In SFY 2003, DFCS received \$845,586 in Chafee Independent Living funds – \$107,681 less than allocated to the State. In SFY 2004, DFCS received \$482,415 – \$521,145 less than the State's total allocation. In SFY 2004, Mississippi drew down less than half of the federal funds available through the Chafee Independent Living program. And in SFY 2005, MDHS drew down \$512,010 in Chafee Title IV-E funds, \$458,281 less than allocated.

⁶⁰ DHS 053156 (MDHS explains that "[the Chafee Independent Living] grant requires the state to provide a 20% match in order to draw down the funds. The current budget constraints have made it difficult to come up with the match.").

⁶¹ The Institute of Applied Research published the Final Evaluation Report for the State of Mississippi Child Welfare Demonstration Project. The report can be obtained at: <http://www.iarstl.org/papers/MSIVEFinalReport.pdf>.

⁶² DHS 053725-726 (In the DFCS Budget Request package dated June 17, 2005, Rickie Felder, Director of DFCS, explains the purpose of the Demonstration and the causes and impact of its suspension as follows: "In 1999, the state of Mississippi was given a waiver to demonstrate how providing additional services through Title IV-E funding to a randomly selected group of children in foster care would eliminate the need for the agency to be in his/her life for a long period of time. By providing these services the agency would eliminate out-of-home placements, return children to their homes, leave children in their home or ensure independent living. This project has not been implemented as proposed due to lack of staff in the waiver counties. These counties were understaffed and were not adequately performing the tasks required by the Waiver Project. Consequently, on September 30, 2004, the Title IV-E Demonstration Waiver Project was cancelled, losing Title IV-E federal funds.).

⁶³ Title IV-B CWS is a non-entitlement capped at \$289,650,112 nationally in FFY 2005. Mississippi's allotment was \$3,875,000 in FFY 2003, \$3,788,816 in FFY 2004, and \$3,769,621 in FFY 2005. As set forth in attached Table 5, MDHS reports \$7,603,651 in Title IV-B (Child Welfare Services) spending in SFY 2003, \$3,728,651 more than allotted. In SFY 2004, MDHS spent \$1,856,739 more than allotted. And in SFY 2005, MDHS spent \$1,168,821 more than allotted.

⁶⁴ DHS 058618 (These words are taken from a presentation made by Janice Broome Brooks, Executive Director of MDHS, at the Legislative Budget Hearings leading to the 2003 legislative session.).

⁶⁵ Jackson DEP at 84:11-85:3.

⁶⁶ "Review of Mississippi's Participation in Title IV-B, Subpart 2 of the Social Security Act, Promoting Safe and Stable Families for Fiscal Years 1994 through 1999," (A-06-01-00065) September 21, 2001, at <http://oig.hhs.gov/oas/reports/region6/60100065.htm>.

⁶⁷ Title IV-B PSSF funding is capped at \$367,174,785 for the 50 states in FFY 2005. Mississippi's allotment for FFY 2003 was 6,044,140, \$6,331,204 in FFY 2004, and \$6,333,688 in FFY 2005. As set forth in attached Table 5, MDHS drew down \$3,431,011 in Title IV-B PSSF funds in SFY 2003. This is \$2,613,129 less than allotted. In SFY 2004, MDHS drew down \$3,944,468 in Title IV-B PSSF funds. This is \$2,386,736 less than allotted. And in SFY 2005, MDHS drew down \$3,568,385 in Title IV-B PSSF funds. This is \$2,765,303 less than allotted.

⁶⁸ DHS 059103.

⁶⁹ DHS 059103.

⁷⁰ DHS 062877-062878 (In a memo written to Thelma Brittain, Deputy Director of Program for MDHS, and dated June 25, 2001, Sue Perry, Director of DFCS, expresses her dismay that 39 Family preservation positions were abolished that would have been 100% funded by Federal TANF funds. Director Perry points out that "our children are at risk. If the state cannot provide general fund dollars to protect the program, we should use every federal dollar available. If we do not, children will continue to live in abusive/neglectful situations and some will die. This is just a fact.").

⁷¹ Urban Institute, The Cost of Protecting Vulnerable Children IV, 2004, page 25.

⁷² The reason for the unusually low figure in FY 2003 is not readily apparent from the data reviewed. Discovery has not provided the answer and I reserve the right to amend this report upon the receipt of new information that might explain it.

⁷³ SFY 2007 at DHS 059090-059128, SFY 2006 at DHS 031539-031606, SFY 2005 at DHS 031467-031538, SFY 2004 at DHS 031395-031466, SFY 2003 at DHS 031315-031394, SFY 2002 at DHS 031245-031314, SFY 2001 at DHS 031177-031244, SFY 2000 at DHS 031111-031176.

The SSBG grant is an entitlement that was capped at \$1,700,000,000 in total for all the states in FY 2005. Mississippi's allotment in FY 2005 was \$16,749,190. A portion of this total grant is allocated to DFCS for child welfare purposes. In SFY 2005, DFCS received \$3,450,360 in SSBG funds.

⁷⁴ States must spend at least 75% of what they spent in FY 1994 to meet the maintenance of effort ("MOE") requirement; they must spend 80% if they do meet the work requirement. Urban Institute, The Cost of Protecting Vulnerable Children IV, 2004, page 37 & n.29.

⁷⁵ Urban Institute, The Cost of Protecting Vulnerable Children IV, 2004, page 23.

⁷⁶ SFY 2007 at DHS 059090-059128, SFY 2006 at DHS 031539-031606, SFY 2005 at DHS 031467-031538, SFY 2004 at DHS 031395-031466, SFY 2003 at DHS 031315-031394, SFY 2002 at DHS 031245-031314, SFY 2001 at DHS 031177-031244, SFY 2000 at DHS 031111-031176.

⁷⁷ SFY 2007 at DHS 059090-059128, SFY 2006 at DHS 031539-031606, SFY 2005 at DHS 031467-031538, SFY 2004 at DHS 031395-031466, SFY 2003 at DHS 031315-031394, SFY 2002 at DHS 031245-031314, SFY 2001 at DHS 031177-031244, SFY 2000 at DHS 031111-031176.

⁷⁸ FY 2005 at DHS 030657-692, FY 2006 at DHS 030693-747, FY 2007 at DHS 053703-732.

⁷⁹ DHS 059107.

⁸⁰ The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates the cost of raising a child in a publication titled "Expenditures on Children by Families, 2004". In this publication the DOA estimates the annual cost of raising a child by the age of the child, the income of the family, geographic location, and by category of spending.

⁸¹ DHS 032883.

⁸² Ways and Means Committee Prints: 108-6, 2004 Green Book, Section 11, pages 103-109.

⁸³ "Making an Economic Case for Prevention", U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Families and Children, April 2004.

⁸⁴ "Total Estimated Cost of Child Abuse and Neglect in the United States" Statistical Evidence", Suzette Fromm, Prevent Child Abuse in America, 2001 at http://www.preventchildabuse.org/learn_more/research_docs/cost_analysis.pdf

Table 1
Federal and State Revenue to DFCS
Actual, Estimated, and Requested
SFY 2000-2006

	SFY 2002 Budget Request						SFY 2003 Budget Request					
	2000	2001	2002	Actual	Estimated	Requested	2001	2002	2003	Actual	Estimated	Requested
Title XX	Social Services Block Grant	2,916,158	3,384,708	3,384,708	5,134,182	7,462,218	6,495,115	5,134,182	7,462,218	3,983,381	4,043,491	4,043,491
Title IV-B	Child Welfare Services	5,413,724	6,246,437	6,246,437	2,441,639	3,548,772	3,088,851	8,561,422	17,075,520	17,288,875	16,875,436	33,676,207
Title IV-E	Foster Care	18,420,840	21,254,247	21,254,247	21,080,792	30,169,634	26,668,740	325,130	472,557	411,314	422,151	427,450
Title I	Child Abuse	270,910	312,580	312,580	820,415	1,192,424	1,037,986	1,259,381	2,582,604	2,615,025	2,701,434	5,387,936
Refugee Resettlement		428,307	495,341	495,341	2,320,154	3,372,201	2,835,164	531,098	233,822	468,351	472,208	161,602
Title IV-B	Family Preservation	2,469,875	2,849,895	2,849,895	419,816	610,176	191,477	131,741	181,477	168,882	302,367	308,162
Title IV-E	Charfee Foster Care Independence	405,204	467,531	467,531	243,222	243,222	151,933	220,826	192,207	187,701	374,385	379,084
Title I	Children's Justice Act	87,943	101,470	101,470	210,798	210,798	20,481,165	28,788,114	25,910,188	18,516,267	32,941,241	33,354,763
DHHS	Community Based Family Resources	5,760,865	6,646,768	6,646,768	65,793,562	78,165,635	68,052,783	502,188	1,001,800	1,014,173	49,038,627	97,808,195
IHHS	TANF				13,346,028	11,901,406	13,745,383	20,127,406	20,632,36	18,472,590	67,139,561	90,087,041
Other	Other	287,838	332,112	332,112	67,139,561	90,087,041	81,788,166	69,088,033	108,438,331	115,500,579		
Total Federal Revenue		36,673,382	42,314,308	42,314,308								
Total State (General Fund) Revenue		14,792,471	13,745,383	13,745,383								
Total Revenue		51,465,853	56,059,692	56,059,692								

	SFY 2004 Budget Request						SFY 2005 Budget Request						SFY 2006 Budget Request						
	2003	2004	2005	Actual	Estimated	Requested	2003	2004	2005	Actual	Estimated	Requested	2003	2004	2005	Actual	Estimated	Requested	
Title XX	Social Services Block Grant	38,806	72,585	72,585	3,407,503	4,025,883	4,025,883	5,645,555	6,554,871	6,554,871	4,025,883	4,031,951	4,198,307	3,450,360	4,031,951	4,031,951	4,198,307		
Title IV-B	Child Welfare Services	7,803,651	14,985,114	14,985,114	10,447,569	12,128,965	12,128,965	10,447,569	12,128,965	12,128,965	10,531,505	12,306,862	12,777,830	4,938,442	5,770,884	5,981,790	5,981,790		
Title IV-E	Foster Care	10,352,223	20,435,277	20,435,277	38,361	224,120	280,211	38,361	224,120	280,211	38,361	42,680	44,314	280,211	38,361	42,680	44,314		
Title I	Child Abuse	168,561	332,419	332,419	571,828	1,127,689	1,127,689	1,354,616	1,572,753	1,572,753	1,059,771	1,238,406	1,285,816	1,059,771	1,238,406	1,285,816	1,285,816		
Refugee Resettlement		3,431,011	6,788,276	6,788,276	3,944,468	4,579,855	4,579,855	3,944,468	4,579,855	4,579,855	3,568,385	4,188,871	4,329,507	3,568,385	4,188,871	4,329,507	4,329,507		
Title IV-B	Family Preservation				845,588	1,687,578	1,687,578	845,588	1,687,578	1,687,578	482,415	580,099	580,099	238,280	274,340	274,340	512,010	598,314	621,219
Title IV-E	Charfee Foster Care Independence				151,801	299,368	299,368	101,127	198,432	198,432	76,865	89,243	89,243	144,451	168,800	175,252	144,451	168,800	175,252
Title I	Children's Justice Act				19,046,548	37,561,576	37,561,576	19,046,548	37,561,576	37,561,576	21,427,676	24,878,228	24,878,228	104,182	121,743	128,404	104,182	121,743	128,404
DHHS	Community Based Family Resources				894,418	1,763,875	1,763,875	894,418	1,763,875	1,763,875	31,776	38,893	38,893	19,987,836	23,356,976	24,071,123	19,987,836	23,356,976	24,071,123
IHHS	TANF				43,213,560	85,221,197	85,221,197	43,213,560	85,221,197	85,221,197	47,338,855	54,981,938	54,981,938	44,583,395	52,098,358	53,912,810	44,583,395	52,098,358	53,912,810
Other	Other				20,880,713	16,070,564	19,558,335	63,874,273	101,281,761	104,777,532	65,187,986	72,217,938	74,242,938	17,256,000	18,687,447	18,857,422	17,256,000	18,687,447	18,857,422
Total Federal Revenue																			
Total State (General Fund) Revenue																			
Total Revenue																			

Source: MDHS, Fiscal Year Budget Requests, 2002-2007.

Table 2: Total Spending and Major Categories of Funding for the Division of Family and Children by Dollar Amounts and Percentage of Total Budget, 1998-2005.

State Fiscal Year	Actual Spending	General Fund Appropriation (State Funds)	Federal Funds	Local	Children's Trust Fund	Budget Contingency Fund	Other	Estimated Cash Available Next Fiscal Period
1998	\$52,541,174	13,936,372	37,416,658	1,188,144				
1999	\$52,843,082	11,929,941	39,783,239	1,129,902				
2000	\$52,483,538	14,792,471	36,673,382	1,017,685				
2001	\$68,219,627	13,346,029	53,793,562	1,080,036				
2002	\$70,743,219	20,727,406	49,038,627	918,966	58,220			
2003	\$68,379,817	20,882,136	43,213,560	1,541,055	62,691	3,580,375		
2004	\$69,502,032	17,849,141	47,338,855	656,585	627,543	1,218,300	1,811,608	
2005	\$64,206,040	17,256,000	44,583,395	197,328	174,003		1,995,314	

Percent of Total Spending

State Fiscal Year	Actual Spending	General Fund Appropriation (State Funds)	Federal Funds	Local	Children's Trust Fund	Budget Contingency Fund	Other	Estimated Cash Available Next Fiscal Period
1998	100.00%	26.52%	71.21%	2.26%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
1999	100.00%	22.58%	75.29%	2.14%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
2000	100.00%	28.18%	69.88%	1.94%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
2001	100.00%	19.56%	78.85%	1.58%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
2002	100.00%	29.30%	69.32%	1.30%	0.08%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
2003	100.00%	30.54%	63.20%	2.25%	0.09%	5.24%	0.00%	-1.32%
2004	100.00%	25.68%	68.11%	0.94%	0.90%	1.75%	2.61%	0.00%
2005	100.00%	26.88%	69.44%	0.31%	0.27%	0.00%	3.11%	0.00%

Source: MDHS, Fiscal Year Budget Requests, 2000-2007.

Table 3
Federal Funding Sources SFY 2005 (Actual) and Estimated State Match

Federal Funding Source	Federal Funding	Estimated	
		State Match Percentage	Estimated State Match
Title IV-E Foster Care	10,531,505	41%	7,318,503
Title IV-B Child Welfare Services	4,938,442	25%	1,646,147
Title IV-B Promoting Safe and Stable	3,568,385	25%	1,189,462
Chafee Independent Living	512,010	20%	128,003
Social Services Block Grant	3,450,360	0	0
TANF	19,987,836	0	0
Refugee Relocation	1,059,771	0	0
Child Abuse	36,524	0	0
Children's Justice Act	144,451	0	0
Community Based Family Resources	104,182	0	0
Other	249,929	0	0
Total	44,583,395		10,282,115
State General Fund Allocation			17,256,000
State Funds Used for Purposes Other than Match			6,973,885

Table 4
Title IV-E Funds in 2002 per Child

State	Number of Children in the State	Title IV-E Funds to the State	Title IV-E Funds per Child
Dist. of Columbia	112,128	\$38,728,989	345
Maine	279,058	\$50,163,202	180
Vermont	139,662	\$19,710,181	141
New York	4,613,251	\$631,433,000	137
California	9,452,391	\$1,271,781,000	135
Ohio	2,879,927	\$378,472,533	131
Illinois	3,254,523	\$392,190,791	121
Pennsylvania	2,863,452	\$319,357,487	112
Michigan	2,570,264	\$242,590,718	94
Maryland	1,379,925	\$124,057,282	90
Hawaii	295,514	\$25,105,189	85
West Virginia	389,171	\$32,740,679	84
Wisconsin	1,338,064	\$112,516,763	84
Rhode Island	239,248	\$19,782,067	83
Connecticut	872,853	\$68,367,027	78
Alaska	192,428	\$14,752,952	77
Minnesota	1,252,125	\$93,335,925	75
Kentucky	931,588	\$67,052,988	72
Delaware	189,698	\$13,349,993	70
North Dakota	146,812	\$9,957,507	68
Montana	216,320	\$14,087,929	65
Iowa	698,045	\$44,871,784	64
Nebraska	439,393	\$27,797,428	63
Massachusetts	1,463,340	\$89,789,754	61
Missouri	1,397,461	\$85,593,591	61
Oregon	855,107	\$50,795,095	59
Colorado	1,151,118	\$64,105,711	56
Kansas	696,519	\$38,346,048	55
Oklahoma	873,560	\$47,498,021	54
Arkansas	677,522	\$35,183,839	52
New Mexico	500,506	\$25,336,344	51
Louisiana	1,185,674	\$58,783,946	50
Florida	3,882,271	\$183,180,612	47
Washington	1,513,360	\$66,132,748	44
South Carolina	979,163	\$40,649,000	42
New Jersey	2,127,391	\$87,405,658	41
Indiana	1,594,857	\$65,071,406	41
Virginia	1,779,408	\$71,311,559	40
Georgia	2,268,477	\$87,889,807	39
Arizona	1,476,856	\$56,923,703	39
South Dakota	195,625	\$7,135,548	36
North Carolina	2,068,840	\$71,827,809	35
Utah	713,012	\$24,704,200	35
Nevada	572,590	\$19,296,286	34
Wyoming	122,344	\$3,825,606	31
Alabama	1,107,108	\$31,059,893	28
Tennessee	1,404,661	\$38,297,764	27
Texas	6,102,316	\$160,891,955	26
Idaho	370,439	\$8,375,900	23
New Hampshire	308,371	\$6,741,662	22
Mississippi	760,747	\$14,919,822	20
Average	72,894,483	5,553,276,701	76

Source: "The Cost of Protecting Vulnerable Children IV", The Urban Institute, 2004.

Table 5: Federal Funding for the Division of Families and Children by Major Categories and Percent of Total Federal Funding, 1998-2005.

State Fiscal Year	Federal Funds	Title IV-B						DHS					
		TANF	Title IV-E Foster Care	CWS - Child Welfare Services	Title IV-B Family Preservation	Social Services Block Grant (SSBG)	Refugee Resettlement	Title IV-E Independent Living	Title I Children Justice Act	Title I Child Abuse	Community Based Family Resources	Other	
1998	\$37,416,558		12,093,705	5,739,367	2,213,280	15,127,626	1,300,454	525,163	56,029	199,356	159,611	2,055	
1999	\$39,783,239		20,257,873	5,366,894	3,716,724	8,492,238	951,847	382,864	170,807	174,090	121,275	148,627	
2000	\$36,673,382	5,760,685	18,420,840	5,413,724	2,469,975	2,916,158	429,307	405,204	87,943	270,910	210,798	287,838	
2001	\$53,793,562	20,481,165	21,080,792	2,441,639	2,320,154	5,134,182	820,415	419,816	131,741	325,130	161,933	486,595	
2002	\$49,038,627	16,516,287	16,675,436	8,561,422	2,701,434	2,002,214	1,294,881	233,822	151,602	211,660	187,701	502,188	
2003	\$43,213,560	19,046,548	10,362,223	7,603,651	3,431,011	36,806	571,828	845,586	151,801	168,561	101,127	894,418	
2004	\$47,338,855	21,427,678	10,447,569	5,645,555	3,944,468	3,467,503	1,354,616	482,415	236,290	224,120	76,865	31,776	
2005	\$44,563,395	19,987,836	10,531,505	4,938,442	3,568,385	3,450,360	1,059,771	512,010	144,451	36,524	104,182	249,929	

Percent of Total Spending

State Fiscal Year	Federal Funds	Title IV-B						DHS					
		TANF	Title IV-E Foster Care	CWS - Child Welfare Services	Title IV-B Family Preservation	Social Services Block Grant (SSBG)	Refugee Resettlement	Title IV-E Independent Living	Title I Children Justice Act	Title I Child Abuse	Community Based Family Resources	Other	
1998	100.0%	0.0%	32.3%	15.3%	5.9%	40.4%	3.5%	1.4%	0.1%	0.5%	0.4%	0.0%	
1999	100.0%	0.0%	50.9%	13.5%	9.3%	21.3%	2.4%	1.0%	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%	0.4%	
2000	100.0%	15.7%	50.2%	14.8%	6.7%	8.0%	1.2%	1.1%	0.2%	0.7%	0.6%	0.8%	
2001	100.0%	38.1%	39.2%	4.5%	4.3%	9.5%	1.5%	0.8%	0.2%	0.6%	0.3%	0.9%	
2002	100.0%	33.7%	34.0%	17.5%	5.5%	4.1%	2.6%	0.5%	0.3%	0.4%	0.4%	1.0%	
2003	100.0%	44.1%	24.0%	17.8%	7.9%	0.1%	1.3%	2.0%	0.4%	0.4%	0.2%	2.1%	
2004	100.0%	45.3%	22.1%	11.9%	8.3%	7.3%	2.9%	1.0%	0.5%	0.5%	0.2%	0.1%	
2005	100.0%	44.8%	23.6%	11.1%	8.0%	7.7%	2.4%	1.1%	0.3%	0.1%	0.2%	0.6%	

Source: MDHS, Fiscal Year Budget Requests, 2000-2007.

Table 6
Title IV-E Eligibility Rates, 2002
Foster Care and Adoptive Assistance

State	Number of Children in Foster Care	Percent Who Received Title IV-E Reimbursement	Percent of Children in Adoptive Placement with Title IV-E Reimbursement
Nevada	1,789	NA	NA
Delaware	1,023	NA	NA
Massachusetts	11,568	NA	NA
Connecticut	7,440	NA	NA
Pennsylvania	21,237	80	80
Vermont	1,360	80	80
California	107,168	79	87
Ohio	21,584	79	93
Wisconsin	7,290	76	87
New Mexico	1,757	73	73
Dist. of Columbia	3,339	72	60
Louisiana	5,024	72	79
Maine	3,226	70	70
New York	43,365	70	80
North Carolina	10,130	70	NA
Michigan	20,896	68	88
Maryland	12,584	67	71
Hawaii	2,584	66	NA
Oklahoma	8,674	65	63
Minnesota	8,167	63	82
South Carolina	4,774	62	69
Kentucky	6,141	61	83
Alaska	1,993	61	85
New Jersey	10,666	60	60
Missouri	13,349	60	70
Kansas	6,409	60	76
Colorado	7,138	60	78
Idaho	1,114	60	80
West Virginia	3,298	60	80
Oregon	8,966	60	80
Texas	19,739	59	75
Virginia	6,866	55	64
Arizona	6,234	54	73
North Dakota	1,167	54	80
South Dakota	1,367	53	72
Tennessee	9,679	50	70
Utah	1,957	50	77
Montana	2,008	50	80
Illinois	28,460	45	91
New Hampshire	1,288	43	59
Alabama	5,859	42	60
Florida	32,477	42	82
Rhode Island	2,414	40	58
Washington	9,101	40	80
Iowa	5,202	40	80
Wyoming	965	37	72
Indiana	8,383	31	NA
Georgia	12,414	30	30
Arkansas	2,959	30	70
Nebraska	6,254	30	70
Mississippi	3,261	23	20

Source: "The Cost of Protecting Vulnerable Children IV", The Urban Institute, 2004.

Table 7
Title IV-E Expenditures, Federal and State Share, 2002-2005.

Title IV-E Foster Care Program												
Title IV-E Foster Care Categories	FFY 2002			FFY 2003			FFY 2004			FFY 2005		
	Total IV-E Expenditures	Fed %	Fed. Share	Total IV-E Expenditures	Fed %	Fed. Share	Total IV-E Expenditures	Fed %	Fed. Share	Total IV-E Expenditures	Fed %	Fed. Share
Maintenance Assistance Payments	2,706,494	76.08%	2,061,654	3,251,817	76.82%	2,491,542	3,408,535	77.08%	2,627,288	4,050,452	77.08%	3,129,788
State and Local Administration	14,826,227	50%	7,413,114	14,708,038	50%	7,354,020	9,782,380	50%	4,881,190	9,371,819	50%	4,885,910
SACWIS Development Costs	681,036	50%	340,518	332,796	50%	186,398	0	50%	0	0	50%	0
State and Local Training	175,377	75%	131,533	517,052	75%	387,789	1,982,071	75%	1,484,053	174,285	75%	130,714
Demonstration Project	177,522		88,762	684,313		378,421	391,558		215,132	0		0
Total	18,569,656		10,035,580	19,494,017		10,778,170	15,574,544		9,227,674	13,606,556		7,946,420
Average Monthly Number of Children In Foster Care Receiving IV-E Reimbursement	500			652			640			688		
Total Number of Children in Custody of MDHS	3,885			3,626			3170			3372		
Title IV-E Foster Care Children as a Percent of Total Foster Care Children	13.55%			17.97%			20.19%			20.40%		

Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program

Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program												
Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Categories	FFY 2002			FFY 2003			FFY 2004			FFY 2005		
	Total IV-E Expenditures	Fed %	Fed. Share	Total IV-E Expenditures	Fed %	Fed. Share	Total IV-E Expenditures	Fed %	Fed. Share	Total IV-E Expenditures	Fed %	Fed. Share
Adoption Assistance Payments	3,887,847	78.09%	2,658,111	4,012,643	78.62%	3,074,487	4,206,078	77.08%	3,242,045	4,558,230	77.08%	3,513,484
State and Local Administration	1,234,235	50%	617,118	949,250	50%	474,825	855,856	50%	477,828	1,103,422	50%	551,711
Total	5,121,882		3,575,228	4,981,893		3,549,112	5,161,834		3,719,873	5,861,652		4,085,195
Average Monthly Number of Children	804			821			858			937		

Source: IV-E Quarterly Report of Expenditure, 2002-2005.

Table 8
Title IV-E Foster Care Spending Categories, FFY 2002
National Average Allocations Compared to State Allocations

	Actual Title IV-E Foster Care			Title IV-E Foster Care Funds to Mississippi but Consistent with National Categories			State Match if State Spending Consistent with National Categories		
	Federal Spending Nationally	Percentage of Federal Spending in Mississippi	Percentage of State Total	State Percentage Match Required	State Match	National Categories	Title IV-E Foster Care Funds to Mississippi but Consistent with National Categories	State Match if State Spending Consistent with National Categories	
Net Maintenance Payments	1,881,907,419	43.4%	2,061,654	20.7%	647,840	4,321,039	1,357,814		
Administration and SACWIS	2,207,037,685	50.9%	7,753,632	78.0%	50.00%	7,753,632	5,067,569	5,067,569	
Training	243,113,029	5.6%	131,533	1.3%	25.00%	43,844	558,211	186,070	
Total	4,332,058,133	100.0%	9,946,819	100.0%		8,445,316	9,946,819	6,611,453	

Sources: IV-E Quarterly Reports of Expenditure, 2002.

WMCP: 108-6, 2004 Green Book, House Ways and Means Committee, Page 11-24.

Table 9: Total Spending and Spending Categories and Percent Federal Funding by Spending Category for the Division of Family and Children, 1998-2005.

Spending Category	1998		1999		2000		2001	
	\$'s	% of Total						
Salaries	18,596,707	35.39%	19,827,445	37.52%	23,185,650	44.18%	24,711,853	36.22%
Travel	1,465,829	2.79%	1,697,642	3.21%	1,894,674	3.61%	2,401,496	3.52%
Contractual	10,611,764	20.20%	13,151,628	24.89%	7,469,331	14.23%	17,134,410	25.12%
Commodities	164,440	0.31%	347,325	0.66%	514,511	0.98%	332,378	0.49%
Equipment	1,549,187	2.95%	1,633,542	3.09%	424,901	0.81%	306,151	0.45%
Subsidies, Loans, and Grants	20,153,247	38.36%	16,185,500	30.63%	18,994,471	36.19%	23,333,339	34.20%
Total Spending	<u>52,541,174</u>	<u>100.00%</u>	<u>52,843,082</u>	<u>100.00%</u>	<u>52,483,538</u>	<u>100.00%</u>	<u>68,219,627</u>	<u>100.00%</u>

Spending Category	2002		2003		2004		2005	
	\$'s	% of Total						
Salaries	23,300,090	32.94%	23,882,216	34.93%	24,843,958	35.75%	23,134,419	36.03%
Travel	2,157,666	3.05%	2,248,393	3.29%	2,346,736	3.38%	1,983,073	3.09%
Contractual	19,248,327	27.21%	16,211,854	23.71%	15,124,793	21.76%	13,425,211	20.91%
Commodities	260,398	0.37%	375,145	0.55%	275,676	0.40%	193,528	0.30%
Equipment	1,460,684	2.06%	1,811,433	2.65%	995,018	1.43%	76,658	0.12%
Subsidies, Loans, and Grants	<u>24,316,074</u>	<u>34.37%</u>	<u>23,850,776</u>	<u>34.88%</u>	<u>25,915,851</u>	<u>37.29%</u>	<u>25,393,151</u>	<u>39.55%</u>
Total Spending	<u>70,743,219</u>	<u>100.00%</u>	<u>68,379,817</u>	<u>100.00%</u>	<u>69,502,032</u>	<u>100.00%</u>	<u>64,206,040</u>	<u>100.00%</u>

Source: MDHS, Fiscal Year Budget Requests, 2000-2007.

Table 10
Placement Setting of Foster Care Children by State
States Ranked by Percentage of Children In Custody In Non-Relative Foster Care
September 30, 2001

State	Pre-Adoptive Home	Foster Home (Relative)	Foster Home (Non-Relative)	Group Home	Institution	Supervised Independent Living	Runaway	Trial Home Visit
Wisconsin	1	7	82	3	7			
Arkansas	4	4	69	1	11	1	3	7
Nevada	1	20	69	5	5	0	0	0
Connecticut	2	0	67	4	26	1	0	0
Maine	5	4	67	8	7	5	0	4
New Hampshire		12	66	21	1	0	1	1
Idaho	3	13	65	10	7		1	1
Georgia	4	19	63	8	6		0	
Virginia	5	4	63	4	18	1	1	4
South Carolina	6	5	62	5	17	1	2	1
Indiana		16	61	3	17	1	1	2
Utah	9	4	61	4	11	2	3	6
Louisiana	0	10	60	8	16	0	1	4
New Jersey	3	14	59	9	13	1	1	
Ohio	4	18	59	4	9	1	3	2
Washington	1	32	58	5	1	0	2	0
Alabama	3	13	57	4	15	0	1	6
Delaware	7	10	57	8	17	0		
District of Columbia	1	17	55	18	8		1	
Hawaii	0	38	55	1	3		2	0
Oklahoma	5	29	55	8	3	0	1	
Vermont	6	11	55	15	3	2	1	8
Kansas	5	13	54	5	6	1	2	14
Montana		32	54	11	3			
New York	0	21	54	3	17	0		5
West Virginia	5	4	54	32	3	2	0	1
Iowa	7	1	53	30	8	2		
New Mexico	13	18	53	4	7	4		
South Dakota	2	18	53	3	23	0	0	1
Kentucky	3	10	51		35	1		
Pennsylvania	2	18	51	11	16	1	0	1
Colorado	9	11	50	4	23	2	2	0
Massachusetts	5	17	50	9	12	3	2	1
Minnesota	6	16	49	10	19	0	0	
Oregon	5	20	49	1	7	0	5	13
North Dakota	8	14	48	4	26		0	
Texas	4	16	48	9	17	0	1	5
Tennessee	5	5	47	12	18	1	6	7
North Carolina	5	18	46	9	9	0	4	8
Michigan	6	32	44	0	15	2	0	0
Alaska	2	30	43	8	2		0	15
Illinois	8	32	42	2	9	4	3	2
Arizona	1	24	40	19	9	2	3	
Florida	2	46	39	2	8	1	1	
Maryland	5	35	38	10	3	1	1	6
Missouri	11	22	38	1	17	3	1	6
Nebraska	0	11	38	5	20	1	2	23
California	3	36	37	14	2		3	4
Wyoming	2	14	36	13	32	1	1	1
Mississippi	2	30	34	18	8	1	0	7
Rhode Island	2	20	31	37	1	4	5	
Averages	4.1	17.3	52.7	8.8	11.7	1.3	1.6	4.7

Source: House Ways and Means Committee Prints: 108-6, 2004 Green Book

Exhibit A**Bill M. Brister**

Business Address	Home Address
P.O. Box 150606	4380 Brook Drive
Millsaps College	Jackson, Ms 39206
Jackson, Ms 36210	(601) 982-1745
(601) 974-1271	
(601) 974-1260 (Fax)	
bristbm@millsaps.edu	

Education

Ph.D. University of Arkansas	Finance	1989
Supporting Fields: Mathematical Statistics, Economics		
MBA University of Southern Mississippi	Economics	1979
BS University of Southern Mississippi	Economics	1978

Academic Experience

Millsaps College Director of Graduate Admissions, 2004-present

Millsaps College, Director of the Center for Applied Research, 1995-2001

Millsaps College, Assistant Professor of Finance, 1989-present

Millsaps College, Director of the MBA Program, 1993-1997

University of Southern Mississippi, Instructor and Assistant Professor,
Departments of Economics and Finance 1979-1983, 1987

University of Arkansas, Teaching Assistant, Department of Finance
1984-1986, 1988

Subjects Taught

Undergraduate and Graduate Portfolio Management, Undergraduate and Graduate Financial Management, Undergraduate and Graduate Financial Markets and Institutions, Advanced Financial Management, Money and Banking, Principles of Economics, Business Statistics, International Investments, International Financial Management, External Environment of Business, and Accounting and Finance for Managers.

Publications

"Does WorkFirst Work? A Preliminary Evaluation of the First Year of Mississippi's Welfare Reform Waiver", Proceedings of the 1997 Meeting of the Academy of Economics and Finance, Forthcoming in 1997, with Jesse Beeler and Philip Taylor.

"Process Study for Mississippi's New Direction Demonstration", submitted to the Mississippi Department of Human Services and to the United States Department of Health and Human Services, March 1997.

"The Impact of WorkFirst After One Year: A Preliminary Assessment" submitted to the Mississippi Department of Human Services and to the United States Department of Health and Human Services, November 1996.

"Quarterly Monitoring Reports, Mississippi New Direction Demonstration Project Evaluation", submitted to the Mississippi Department of Human Services and to the United States Department of Health and Human Services, February 1996, November 1995, August 1995, May 1995, February 1995.

"Beyond Statistics: It's Important to Discover the Value", in the Mississippi Business Journal, November 7, 1994.

"The Regulatory Effect of Credit Ratings on Bond Interest Yield: the Case of Junk Bonds", Journal of Business Finance and Accounting, Winter 1994, with Dr. Pu Liu and Dr. Robert Kennedy.

"The Preliminary Impact of WorkFirst", Papers and Proceedings, Midsouth Academy of Economics and Finance, Accepted for Publication, with Jesse Beeler and Philip Tayler.

"The Stock Market Reaction to Green Information", Papers and Proceedings, Midsouth Academy of Economics and Finance, Summer 1991, with John Broussard.

"Efficiency of International Capital Markets, Some Further Evidence" Western Illinois University Journal of Business, Winter 1989, with Dr. Fazal Seyyed.

"Cost of Capital in Corporate Strategy: Multinational vs. Domestic Firms", Business Insights, Vol. VIII, No. 1, Fall/Winter 1988, with Dr. Eddie M. Lewis.

"Mississippi Sectorial Changes: The 1970's Decade", Midsouth Journal of Economics, Proceedings, September 1984, with Dr. George H. Carter.

"Cost of Capital in Corporate Strategy: Multinational vs. Domestic Firms", Journal of the American Institute of Decision Sciences, Proceedings, Winter 1986-1987, with Dr. Eddie M. Lewis.

Other Research, Presentations, and Honors

Presentation of the research paper, "Rebalancing Asset Allocations: The Long-Term Effects", Southern Finance Association, Charleston, SC, December 3-6, 2003.

Presentation of the research paper, "Does WorkFirst Work? A Preliminary Evaluation of the First Year of Mississippi's Welfare Reform Waiver", Academy of Economics and Finance meeting, Lafayette, Louisiana, February, 1997.

Served as principle facilitator of Welfare Reform Workshop for the Department of Human Services of the State of Mississippi at Millsaps College on March 19-22, 1996.

Presentation of the research paper, "The Regulation Effect of Credit Ratings on Bond Interest Yields: The Case of Junk Bonds", at the Eastern Finance Association meeting, The Homestead, Hot Springs, VA, April 1991.

Presentation of the research paper, "The Risk Characteristics of Closed-End Country Funds", at the Eastern Finance Association meeting, Tampa, FL, April, 1992.

Presentation of the research paper, "The Stock Market Reaction to Green Information", at the Midsouth Academy of Economics and Finance annual meeting, Shreveport, LA, February, 1991.

Member of the Board of Editors of the Journal of Economics and Finance, 1990, 1991, 1992, and 1993.

Member, Board of Advisors and Faculty Advisor, General Louis Wilson Fund, a student-managed stock portfolio.

Area Coordinator, Midsouth Academy of Economics and Finance meeting, February 1990, 1991.

Conducted the 1995 Summer Institute for the Mississippi Economic Council's American Enterprise Center. The title of the Institute is "Critical Economic and Social Issues of Mississippi".

Conducted the 1994 Summer Institute for the Mississippi Economic Council's American Enterprise Center. The title of the Institute is "Free Enterprise With a Focus on Geography".

Served as co-instructor of the Executive Management Seminar entitled, "Valuing Your Business" on June 30, 1994. This seminar was the pilot program for the Millsaps' Executive Management Center.

Delivered the Speech, "NAFTA, What Does It Mean For Mississippi" to the Eighth Annual Mississippi Partnership Conference, May 15-17, 1994, Biloxi, Mississippi.

Delivered the Speech, "NAFTA Overview / Impact on Mississippi Business" to the World Trade Week Conference, May 23, 1994, Jackson, Mississippi.

Delivered the Speech, "The New World Fertile Crescent", at the Southern Regional Land Conference, June 24, 1994, Biloxi, Mississippi.

The paper "Corporate Survival Analysis, A Prediction Model" was selected for presentation at the April, 1993 Annual Meeting of the Eastern Finance Association in Richmond, Virginia.

Director of Symposium entitled "Mississippi: Where We've Been, Where We Are, Where We're Going". Funding provided by Mississippi Humanities Council, March 16, 1994.
Delivered the speech "NAFTA's Effect on Mississippi" at the Mississippi Economic Council / Mississippi NAFTA Conference, November, 1993.

Delivered the speech "The Economic Rationale Behind the NAFTA Agreement" at the NAFTA/Export Workshop sponsored by the U.S. Department of Commerce, November, 1993.

Designed and Conducted the 1993 Summer Institute for the Mississippi Economic Council's American Enterprise Center. The title of the Institute is "International Economic Events: The Impact on Mississippi".

Moderator and expert for the program, "International Economic Events: The Impact on Mississippi", edited and aired by Mississippi Educational Television, October 3, 1993.

Designed and delivered a lecture series during the summer of 1992 to middle management of Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Mississippi. The series was entitled, "Statistical Analysis for Quality Control in Financial Service Organizations".

Designed and conducted the Summer Institute for the Mississippi Economic Council's American Enterprise Center for 1992. The title of the Institute is "Making Mississippi Work, A Partnership Between Business and Education".

Awarded a Professional Development Grant by Millsaps College for the Summer of 1993.

Received commendation for accomplishments in the area of college service to Millsaps College during the years of 1992, 1994, 1995, and 1996, 2001, and 2002.

Instructor for the American Institute of Banking, 1979-1984.

Speech to the members of the Mississippi Chapter of Financial Analysts entitled "A Comparison of Junk Bond Default Risk and Yield Premiums", Feb 28, 1990.

Participant at several forums and seminars, including the American Iron and Steel Forum and the Chicago Board of Trade Seminar on Financial Futures.

Consulting experience with banks, corporations, small businesses, attorneys, and governmental agencies.

Professional Memberships

National Association of Forensic Economics
Financial Management Association
American Finance Association

Litigation in which Bill M. Brister has Testified

Pounds v. U.S. Repeating Arms Company and Olin Corporation
U.S. District Court, Southern District of Mississippi, Hattiesburg
Civil Action 2:94-CV-446 PS

Testimony: 05-20-96
Law Firm: Husch and Eppenburger, St. Louis, MO

Pam Pitner v. Atlanta Casualty Insurance Company
State of Mississippi, Circuit Court of Hinds County
Civil Action No.

Testimony: 08-05-96
Law Firm: Minor and Associates, Biloxi, MS

Partridge v. Partridge
State of Mississippi, Chancery Court of Hinds County
No. 129,086

Testimony: 01-31-94
Law Firm: Chinn and Associates, Jackson, MS

Green and Green d/b/a Swensen's v. Bennett York et al
State of Mississippi, Circuit Court of Forrest County
Civil Action No. 7-88-2416

Deposition: 04-28-1994
Law Firm: Ott, Purdy and Scott, Jackson, MS

Superior Boat Works, Inc. v. Lady Luck Mississippi, Inc. et al
U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Northern District of Mississippi, Aberdeen MS
Proceeding No. 93-2238
Deposition: 09-30-96
Testimony: 10-31-96
Law Firm: Swank and Associates, Covington, LA

Larry v. McPhate Pulpwood, Inc.
State of Mississippi, Circuit Court of Jefferson County
No. 96-0009
Testimony: 02-11-97
Law Firm: Watkins and Eager, Jackson, MS

Body Support Systems v. Blue Ridge Table Co., Inc.
U.S. District Court, Northern District of Mississippi, Oxford, MS
Civil Action 1:96CV161-D-A
Deposition: 07-28-97
Law Firm: Frascogna, Courtney, Wright, Smith & Dyer, Jackson, MS

Bartley Lamar Denton v. Simpson et.al.

State of Mississippi, Circuit Court of Adams County

No.

Testimony: 11-14-97

Law Firm: Watkins and Eager, Jackson, MS

Casino America v. Ed Ernest and Casino Magic

State of Mississippi, Circuit Court of Harrison County

No. C2402-96-1064

Deposition: 5-19-98

Butler, Snow, O'Mara, Stevens & Cannada

Geneva Boyd v. Jitney Jungle

State of Mississippi, Circuit Court of Lincoln County

No. 94-00241

Testimony: 7-6-98

Allen, Allen, Boerner & Breeland

Kemp v. Kemp

State of Mississippi, Chancery Court of Lauderdale County

No. 97-1005-M

Testimony: August 1999

James and Associates

Thompson et. al.v. Jim Walter Homes et. al.

State of Mississippi, Circuit Court of Jefferson County

No. 2000-24

Deposition: 6/24/01

Watkins and Eager

Pro Maintemanace Services et. al. v. Deposit Guaranty National Bank at. al.

State of Mississippi, Circuit Court of Hinds County

No. 251-96-59-CIV

Deposition: 10/18/01

Mockbee, Hall & Drake

Mickey D. Crawford v. Mabe's Trucking Company, Henry Milton Joyner, et. al.

U.S. District Court, Southern District of Mississippi

No. 1:00CV154BrR

Deposition: May 29, 2002

Minor and Associates

**Victory Lane Productions v. Morton Custom Plastics
U.S. District Court, Southern District of Mississippi
No. 3:01CV178WS**

**Deposition: August 5, 2002
Simmons and Associates and Husch and Eppenberger**

**McClellan v. USA Motor Express, Inc.
State of Mississippi, Lee County Circuit Court
No. CV200027POB
Testimony: December 16, 2002
Ashe, Tanner & Wright**

**Speetjens, et al. v. Malaco, et al.
State of Mississippi, Madison County Chancery Court
No.
Testimony: November 20, 2003
Copeland, Cook, Taylor & Bush**

**Southern Nights v. Hiebert and Miles
State of Mississippi, Harrison County Chancery Court
No.
Testimony: June 16, 2004
Dukes, Dukes, Keating & Faneca**

**Derryberry v. Lee et al.
State of Mississippi, Alcorn County Circuit Court
N. CV02-405GA
Testimony: December 10, 2004
Simmons and Associates**